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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Envoys in Prague Denounce Soviet Jews' Exodus

LD2202205990 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Prague, al-Nawwar [February] 22—JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Arab ambassadors accredited to Czechoslovakia denounced the exodus of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine.

In a statement issued yesterday in Prague, they confirmed that the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine had come as a result of pressures from the U.S. and the Western states.

The statement indicated that the Soviet immigrants were forced to go en masse to occupied Palestine asserting that such measures contradict all international treaties and laws.

Egypt's Sidqi Addresses Arab Economic Council

NC2102141190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has called on the Arab nation to realize the ongoing developments in the international arena. He stressed that these international challenges and developments dictate that the Arabs cooperate among themselves to confront the repercussions of these events. Dr. Sidqi said this in a speech at the inauguration of the 48th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council meeting that convened in the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. The Arab economy, finance, and trade ministers attended the session.

Dr. Sidqi noted the steps that joint Arab action has taken since the establishment of the Arab League in the 1940's. He compared them with the achievements of the European countries on the threshold of establishing the common European market as a prelude to a united Europe, whereas Arab action has not yet achieved the Arab nation's goals. Referring to the Arab economic groupings, he said that the goal is to establish an economic unity to combine the entire Arab nation. He pointed out that studies showed that the Arab nation is capable of achieving this goal.

Regarding the political challenges confronting the Arab nation, Dr. Sidqi said that they are serious and require economic cooperation in the interests of all Arab countries. He proposed a number of ideas for study and debate at the council's meeting. The ideas call for increasing investment among Arab countries and coordination between planning and trade policies so that industrial and agricultural output can be increased while relying on intrinsic Arab potential and Arab cooperation to establish projects and technological cooperation among the Arab countries.

ACC Summit To View Syria-Iraq Reconciliation

PM2102151590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Feb 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fourth Arab Cooperation Council Summit To Discuss Egyptian Mediation To Reconcile Syria and Iraq"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that the Fourth Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit, to be held in the last week of February, will discuss the Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation issue, especially in view of the successes achieved by Egyptian mediation.

The sources pointed out that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Damascus once all outstanding issues are resolved within the framework of that reconciliation, expressing their belief that a Syrian-Iraqi meeting at summit level will be held in Amman on the sidelines of the ACC leaders' meetings.

The sources emphasized that the ACC summit agenda also includes a discussion of developments in the Palestinian issue and the moves to be made to bolster Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent initiative with a view to bringing peace to the Gulf region, pushing Iran toward negotiation, and backing the high Arab tripartite committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis. This is in addition to the continuous developments in East and West Europe.

The meetings of the four new subcommittees of the ACC parliamentary committee are expected to commence in March. Each committee comprises three members of parliament from each of the four states. The final dates and venues of the meetings will be determined through the contacts being made among the four states to prepare the topics to be presented to the parliamentary committee at its next meeting, to be held in Amman in September.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Asks for France's Help on Jewish Emigration

LD1802234290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Feb (SPA)—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), met today at the organization headquarters with Jacques Bernard, French ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of common interest, particularly the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and Israel's intention to settle these emigrants in the occupied Palestine territory.

Dr. al-Ghabid expressed his thanks and appreciation to France for its position supporting Palestinian rights, and asked the French ambassador to convey to his government the will of the ICO to see France play an important role at the Security Council where it is a permanent member, and also on other international scenes, in order to put an end to the illegitimate emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and to find a just and comprehensive solution to the question of the Middle East and Palestine, which will guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Asks U.S. for 'Decisive Stance' on Israel

JN2102223890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The PLO has renewed its demand that the U.S. Administration shoulder its responsibilties, which are in accord with its declared commitments with respect to the peace process in the Middle East. The United States can do this by adopting a decisive stance against the direct Zionist challenges to the peace process, and against flagrant Zionist violations of the Palestinian people's rights, of all international agreements and norms, and the will of the world community.

The Palestine news agency, WAFA, said this came during a meeting in Tunis yesterday between brother Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunisia, and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestine question, especially Jewish emigration, settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories—which the enemy authorities have begun to implement—and the Zionist terrorist escalation against the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland.

PLO's 'Abbas on Moscow Talks, Emigration

JN2002204590 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 27

[By Salam Musafir]

[Text] Moscow—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has told AL-ANBA' that the talks he and the accompanying delegation held in Moscow were within the context of the joint coordination between the Palestinian and Soviets leaders.

Before leaving the Soviet capital yesterday, Sunday, at the end of a 3-day visit Abu-Mazin said: Our talks with the Soviet leaders dealt with two basic issues: the political moves in the international arena and Soviet Jewish emigration.

In his interview with AL-ANBA', Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinian delegation explained in detail the steps that have been taken with respect to the political moves, and the Soviets briefed us on their talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He said: To sum up the situation, there are four points dealing with the preparations for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. These points are as follows: The formation and proclamation of the Palestinian delegation, the agenda, the guarantees required from the Americans and the Soviets, and the international presence.

Abu-Mazin said: We discussed these points with Egypt so that Egyptian officials would communicate them to the Americans. Our viewpoint with respect to the formation of the Palestinian delegation is that the PLO is the one that will name its members in accordance with certain specifications. As for the agenda, we believe that it should specifically tackle what the Israelis have to say on the elections and what we have to say on the phased solution and the lasting solution on the basis of the UN resolutions. As for the guarantees, they consist of the explicit U.S. statement issued from time to time on the exchange of land for peace, the implementation of the UN resolutions, the Israeli withdrawal, and the Palestinian people's political rights. It goes without saying that we are asking that this provision be clear with respect to the right to self-determination.

Abu-Mazin added: As for the international presence, we continue to ask that this dialogue be attended by the five UN Security Council permanent members. Discussions with the Americans, whether direct or through mediators, focused on these points. There is no doubt that some progress has been achieved, although Israel continues to create obstacles. Shamir continues to resist not only from the premise of his ideological stand, but also as a result of the major differences which exist within the Likud and the Israeli Government. Had things proceeded as they should, the tripartite meeting among the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers would have taken place to prepare for the [Palestinian-Israeli] meeting. However, it seems that the domestic state of affairs in Israel is the one which has hampered this meeting.

Abu-Mazin added: Our stand is firm and clear. We will pursue our peace offensive, and the intifadah will continue until the United States and Israel become convinced of the need to carry out negotiations for the attainment of a solution.

Abu-Mazin said: As for the Soviet Jewish emigration, we accept that emigration from the Soviet Union is taking place in accordance with a decision made by the Soviet Government. Under perestroyka any citizen is allowed to travel and emigrate, including Jews and non-Jews. However, what is regrettable now is that most of the Soviet Jews are leaving for occupied Palestine because the United States and Western countries have closed their doors to them. We know that Soviet Jews prefer to emigrate to the United States or to Western countries. Jewish emigration now has grave consequences, since it will terminate the Palestinian presence in the occupied Arab territories, and through the flooding of the settlements with immigrants will establish a new demographic reality that will obstruct the peace process.

Abu-Mazin added: From this premise, our talks with the Soviets dealt with how to prevent Soviet Jews from reaching Palestine. Since the individual has the right to choose, this right should be complete; that is, he should be allowed to travel abroad and to return. He also should have a Soviet passport so that he may be able to return if he so wishes. We also discussed the question of the direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The Soviets assured us that these flights will not take place, and that the law on the return of immigrants is now being studied by parliament, as well as the abrogation of the law issued in 1967, under which Jewish immigrants are banned from returning to the Soviet Union if they wish.

In reply to a question on whether the Soviets intend to resume diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv soon, Abu-Mazin said: The Soviets affirmed to us that they told the Americans that the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel requires specific measures: If Israel proceeds on the road to peace, or if it adopts positive steps towards peace, then the Soviets will resume relations with it. Otherwise, the relations will not be resumed, as the Soviets had assured us.

Commenting on the rumors in the Soviet Union about plans for pogroms against Soviet Jews, Abu-Mazin said Soviet media should expose these Zionist lies, which Zionism disseminates every time it wants to make Jews emigrate. It fabricates massacres, or claims that such massacres will take place to expedite the emigration of Jews. The Soviet officials have told us that the Zionist organizations in the Soviet Union and Israel are behind these rumors.

Abu-Mazin said: We discussed with Soviet officials the ways and means the Soviet media should adopt to expose the Zionist activities. We emphasized to them that they are dutybound to expose Zionist schemes, and that the Soviet citizen should be informed of these schemes by having documents and films available to reply to the Zionist propaganda. We gave the Soviets a film about the Soviet Jews who emigrated a few years ago. The film was produced by these Soviet emigrants. This film shows their sufferings, and that the dream that they will emigrate to Israel, the land of milk and honey, is shattered upon their arrival, and that they discover that they have arrived in hell.

AL-ANBA' Interviews Fatah's Salah Khalaf

JN2102184890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 27

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Council, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] According to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's statement, the United States has refused to sign a joint American-Soviet declaration condemning the settlement of Soviet Jews in Palestinian territory occupied in 1967. Does this add to the list of U.S. policies that are hostile to the Palestinian people's rights?

[Khalaf] If we looked for the reasons behind the White House's refusal to sign the declaration, we would find that the United States is completely biased in favor of Israel on one hand and that it is under the influence of Zionist-lobby pressure on U.S. decisionmakers on the other.

U.S. policies hostile to the Palestinian people's rights are not hidden and this new action will further shake the image of the U.S. Administration and increase the gap between its declared principles and the reality. America announced its commitment—in the United Nations and through official statements—to stop the settlements before the recent Jewish emigration began. However, it seems that all this might become merely ink on paper.

Although we learn new lessons each day, the Arab situation remains as it is; it cannot make a decision vis-a-vis America. And this makes the United States ready to adopt any decision that encroaches on Arab interests, even the vital ones.

[Al-Barqawi] Does this lead us to talk about the measures on which the Arab countries make decisions that, in most cases, turn out to be merely clamor?

[Khalaf] The entire Arab situation is unsettled. Consequently, decisive issues are still without effective measures, including the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine. This is in addition to the peace process, which is deadlocked, the bloody events in Lebanon, and the repercussions of these events on the Arab level. All these issues require a better Arab response through convening a new type of Arab summit; not the kind of summit that convenes for one or two days and ends with a statement whose language shows that no tangible result was reached. A serious discussion of the whole Arab situation is required—the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, the water problem. Can anything motivate the nation? We notice that the changes that have shaken the world have not stirred the Arab homeland. Should the Arab region wait for devastating storms before it reacts? We need an earnest Arab summit to discuss the future of the Arab nation in light of the international changes. What is taking place in the USSR is not far away from us and the repercussions there are important to us. The world is now moving toward one universal system. Where do we stand in regard to this system? Some Arab countries are friends of the United States and others are friends of the USSR. However, as the crisis continues, we will be cornered. A unified Arab stand is the only way to prevent such a dilemma.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that previous Arab summit resolutions were appropriate to the situation we are facing?

[Khalaf] Regardless of previous differences among the Arab nation, the present situation does not allow them.

As I have said, the waves of change are coming to the region; we cannot deal with them through silence, indifference, or pessimism. As of now, the Arabs must define their future course and learn how to live with the serious developments.

The situation with us, the Palestinians, is that we have lost almost everything. However, the Arabs must now be made aware of the fact that there is a plan to create a second Israel in the Arab homeland whose task is to impose a formidable reality upon this nation. There is encouragement of Zionist expansion. U.S. encouragment and uncontrolled Jewish immigration are proof of that.

We Arabs now lie between Scylla and Charibdis. We either hold a new Arab summit to discuss how to confront this, or the waves will carry us away.

[Al-Barqawi] Does this mean that the dangers are not restricted to the Palestinians alone?

[Khalaf] This has been the case for a long time. Is the Israeli nuclear missile specially designed for hitting the Palestinians who live with the Israelis in one region? The purpose behind the missile, which has reached the Libyan coast and can reach Moroccan shores, is to harm non-Palestinians. The Israeli danger threatens Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Tunis, and other Arab countries.

I do not want to scare people. However, I am warning of a danger lurking around us that we must confront responsibly through ending our disputes. There must be Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation and Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation. We definitely have to think about the eastern front in one form or another. It is not essential to announce this front, since it is enough for us to have practical coordination among the concerned parties to confront the danger of emptying the occupied Palestinian territories of their people. This is what is quietly taking place now along with the arrival of hundreds of Jews every day. We must expect the arrival of thousands.

How are we to confront this danger? Is Jordan to confront the Israeli danger alone? It is the duty of all the Arabs to side with Jordan. The issue is not the sole responsiblity of this country alone excluding all the others. Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria have their share of responsibility too.

[Al-Barqawi] Jordan will come up later in this discussion. To continue discussion of this topic for the timebeing—the Arab summits—as a Palestinian leader, how are Arab summit resolutions made ambiguous?

[Khalaf] There are no serious applicable resolutions. In most cases, resolutions are issued to conclude the work of the summit and to show its successes. This is a procedural error. We now need an Arab summit that does not care for appearances and that results in applicable resolutions, even if minimal. We should not bite off more than we can chew.

[Al-Barqawi] Discussing the Arab nation leads us to the difficult situation this nation is in. I wonder, has the Arab nation started to lose its strategic balance?

[Khalaf] The Arab nation lost its momentum long ago. There are many reasons for this. One of the most important is that many Arab countries know nothing about democracy. The citizen in these countries is worth nothing. This is why things look calm on the surface. This calmness, however, eventually leads to death. We now need activity and life.

It is true that some Arab countries have recently seen some changes toward democracy. However, this is not enough. The Arab nation must include all its sons in decision-making. How do we explain Arab subservience in light of events that should shake us all? There has not been a single demonstration in any Arab street. I still recall the days when the Palestinians were besieged in Beirut. No demonstrations took place in any Arab country apart from Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan, and the occupied territories.

[Al-Barqawi] When will the next Arab summit be held? Clearly, there is almost no talk about it nowadays.

[Khalaf] The Arabs are preoccupied with Lebanese developments. As you see, the Arabs are always in a state of waiting and anticipation. This waiting and anticipation starts at the time of the U.S. presidential elections and remains throughout the second presidential term. In addition, this status is given a new lease of life during U.S. congressioanl elections and so on and so forth.

[Al-Barqawi] So, there is nothing tangible on this?

[Khalaf] That is true.

[Al-Barqawi] Recently, there has been much talk about Israeli threats against Jordan. The Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM spoke about it recently. Besides, the PLO Executive Committee touched on these dangers in a recent communique. Are there real dangers facing Jordan?

[Khalaf] Depending on daily monitoring of what is taking place in Israel, we can safely say that the Israeli enemy has few guarded secrets. The statements being made about this issue by Israeli officials are unequivocally and unmistakably clear.

At present, there is an Israeli plan to bring about an inter-Palestinian dispute to make Palestinians use firearms against one another. In other words, Israel wants to arm collaborators just as it armed members of village leagues in the past. It also seeks to supply settlers with better arms than they have right now. The objective of this plan is to make the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip face a complicated and difficult situation.

Through this scheme, Israel seeks to create atmospheres conducive to a Palestinian exodus to Jordan and perhaps to southern Lebanon too, but on a smaller scale.

This explains statements that have always been made by Israeli officials to the effect that there is a need to find an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan. This is only achievable through an Israeli invasion of the East Bank of Jordan to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian state there.

This is a real and well known danger. However, it is important to identify the remedies required and not only to diagnose the disease.

As far as the PLO is concerned, and in view of this situation that might be staring Jordan in the face, we will forget the little sensitivities we have had with this fraternal state and particularly with King Husayn. We are bound to extend a helping hand and demonstrate sincerity and fraternal sentiments. The ranks must be closed on solid bases to thwart this scheme, as we and King Husayn would be the first victims of such a scheme. Then, the turn of others will come.

We are confident that Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and all Arabs would support us and Jordan. However, a new fresh chapter needs to be opened so that we can foil the ambitions of all those who are attempting to muddle Palestinian-Jordanian ties. We and Jordanians constitute one people. We would like to affirm for the thousandth time that we will not accept an alternative homeland, even if we have to wait a million years.

As Palestinians, we will continue to uphold the banner of the struggle against our Zionist enemy until we secure our rights. If we had wanted to be settled in another homeland, we would have accepted this without having to offer these formidable sacrifices. For the past 40 years, Palestinians have been jailed for rejecting settlement in other homelands. Had we been looking for an alternative homeland, we would not have led our people on this difficult path, which has resulted in tens of thousands of martyrs. The issue is not a purely Palestinian one. No, the issue is an inter-Arab one that concerns all peoples of this nation.

The starting point in averting the Israeli danger lies in reaching a Palestinian-Jordanian understanding free of all sensitivities and doubts. Jordan is the homeland of its people. We will continue to be guests in Jordan—except for those who choose to be Jordanians. Apart from this, there is no difference between a Palestinian and a Jordanian. Moreover, at the earliest possible opportunity; that is, when the Palestinian state is established, we will announce unity with Jordan, because we are one people. Until we reach that point, we have to unify our stands, as we are destined to face the Zionist onslaught together.

[Al-Barqawi] Has Palestinian-Jordanian understanding reached the required level, or are there obstacles?

[Khalaf] The understanding between us is good. However, I call for turning a new page on all levels, whether between the leaders or on the lower levels, so that this understanding will not be undermined again. The long experience we and Jordan have had has witnessed frequent sedition and many plots whose objective was to hamper this understanding.

[Al-Barqawi] This is about Jordan. What about Syria, specifically after the meeting that Palestinian president and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held in the Tunisian capital. Have there been any contacts, or has any progress been made?

[Khalaf] The worst thing about us Arabs is that we always link one issue to the other. Some of us make decisions on what takes place here and there. Let us take Syrian-Palestinian relations as an example. This or that party is still waiting for what the incidents in Lebanon will produce. This is wrong. The proper thing to do is to help them reach an agreement.

Brother Abu-'Ammar's meeting with Al-Shar' is a good beginning but we need practical steps. How can we call for the establishment of an eastern front while Syria and Palestine—which are two basic parties in this front—are still at loggerheads? An agreement is necessary, if only on a minimum level, and differences must be set aside. The differences between us and Syria are old. However, we had the same differences with other Arab countries, but we managed to overcome them.

It is not in the interest of the Palestinian cause that we become part of any Arab axis. We have an interest in being with all the Arabs and that all the Arabs support us. If we enter into an alliance with anybody, then we should expect to lose something.

From this premise, I emphasize that we are serious in our endeavors to normalize our relations with Syria, and the next weeks will witness qualitiative developments.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there any contacts between the two sides?

[Khalaf] Contacts have not ceased over the past year. An official session of talks is needed during which we will review the past, learn lessons from it that will benefit us in the future, and then start to search for common ground.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there any obstacles, and were they discussed with Al-Shar'?

[Khalaf] If there are good intentions on both sides, then obstacles will be removed.

[Al-Barqawi] Lebanon is still experiencing its 15-year old tribulation. In light of the al-Ta'if agreement and the current fighting in east Beirut, what about the Palestinian presence?

[Khalaf] It is difficult to discuss the Palestinian presence in Lebanon in isolation from what is taking place there. Fighting is raging between 'Awn and Ja'ja'. I support the al-Ta'if agreement, which I view as being the first step toward Lebanon's unity. The most serious danger this country faces is partition.

In my opinion, the al-Ta'if agreement has not been completed. It should not tackle marginal issues. 'Awn's case is not a case of only one individual. It is the cause of a group, or a trend in Lebanon, particularly in the eastern sector. This group's viewpoint should be taken into consideration. It will be difficult to resort to the military solution. The al-Ta'if agreement must be developed to tackle the 'Awn problem. The second issue is the Palestinian one, which Al-Ta'if agreement has left unresolved. This has made the Palestinians who live there anxious: Should we support the agreement or oppose it? Palestinians there support Lebanon's unity but at the same time they are worried about their future. If this agreement is reviewed, the Palestinians will feel reassured. This is necessary, because we are there and must take care of our future.

We call on 'Awn to abandon his extremist positions toward the Lebanese state. If he pursues his present policy, he will be proceeding toward the partitioning of Lebanon. The Arab Tripartite Committee must study the 'Awn case and must work to develop the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Is this then a Palestinian call to reassess the al-Ta'if agreement?

[Khalaf] Not in this form. This is only my personal opinion. The issue has not been discussed by the command. However, this is in line with the spirit of the Palestinian position. We do not mean that the al-Ta'if agreement should be abrogated, or torn up. It should be only be amended.

[Al-Barqawi] A few days ago, we talked about the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks with an Israeli delegation. However, I still have some questions. Have you not noticed a softening in the Palestinian position recently?

[Khalaf] From my responsible position, I challenge anybody to prove that the PLO has presented to any side a list of names of the Palestinian delegation. And if I were sure that someone had presented such a list, I would stand up against him clearly and without hesitation.

As far as I know—and I am certain—the PLO has not presented any such list; it has only presented the qualifications of the delegation and given examples by presenting some names. And this was not a list of names.

[Al-Barqawi] But there are names?

[Khalaf] One or two names; and this is not a problem. We spoke about qualifications; that is, he should be so and so, he might be Salah Khalaf or Fathi and so forth.

The important thing is that when the list of names is presented under the table, whoever presents it will be exposed. I do not believe anybody would dare present it. It would mean an agreement on the formation of the Palestinian delegation on the part of Israel, Egypt, and America. Who would dare to do so? It would mean the abandonment of the PLO and its representation of the Palestinian people. If I did that, I would not have the right to claim the representation of the Palestinians; and this applies to others as well. Therefore, I rule out such a thing.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that ruling out previously convicted deportees is considered Palestinian flexibility?

[Khalaf] This does not concern me. What concerns me is one thing—that is, who names the delegation. Let them be the best or worst members. The important thing to me is who names them and whom he represents. I will leave everything; I am concerned about the front the delegation represents.

I left the details to others and I no longer care about the details. The important thing is that there is a Palestinian delegation holding dialogue with Israel. Where did this delegation come from? Has it landed from the sky by parachute? Has it come from the ground? Has it roots? Is the PLO behind it or not?

[Al-Barqawi] I hope you will not be annoyed by my questions. Many sources say that Faysal al-Husayni will lead the Palestinian delegation.

[Khalaf] As I have told you, I do not care about names. My only concern is whom Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, or Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi represent. The important thing to us is whom they represent. If they represent the PLO, that would be a great victory for us. However, if they do not, not one step will be achieved.

[Al-Barqawi] Although the Ismailia bus incident took place days ago, it is still drawing strong reactions. You yourself were in the middle of the event because of your statements, particularly your warning about similar operations.

[Khalaf] This is correct; and I still adhere to my opinion. Record this: If the path of settlement remains as it is, many similar operations will take place. New alternatives would come out in the regional arena. If the PLO disregards its role, they will find other roads in front of them.

Israeli extremism will face another extremism—Palestinian, Arab, or Islamic. This extremism will not be expressed in words; everybody now is armed and being trained. The eyes of Arab intelligence are not closed; they know that every extremist has a training camp either in the Arab homeland or Iran. This is no secret. What is expected from the PLO? Should it become a guard for Israel? Is this its role? Is its role to search for those who carry out operations? No, this is not its role. We hardly control our group and tell them do nothing now. How can we control the others? So, I say: Those who are frightened of the violence that will prevail the region should not keep the major issue in abeyance. How long will it take?

[Al-Barqawi] I still have a number of questions on internal Palestinian issues. The first is on the Central Council and the date and venue of its session.

[Khalaf] The intention was to convene it either in Amman or in Baghdad. However, it seems that the Jordanian brothers are facing circumstances that prevent the convening of the Central Council at this time. In general, no decision has yet been taken on holding it. It will convene either at the end of this month or at the beginning of next month.

[Al-Barqawi] The Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Khalaf] The Central Council will define the next steps with regard to the new PNC.

Spokesman Announces 19 Feb Israeli Air Raids

JN2102194890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Six Israeli U.S.-made F-16 fighters have carried out two air raids on positions belonging to the Fatah Movement, which led to injuries and material losses.

The Palestinian military spokesman announced the offensive in a statement. Following is the text of the statement:

At exactly 1655 on 19 February, Israeli warplanes raided positions belonging to the Fatah Movement in Kafr Jarrah eastern Sidon in southern Lebanon, targeting an administrative headquarters. Ground forces, however, opened fire on the fighters forcing them to flee without being able to achieve aggressive objectives. The raid resulted in the light injury of five persons and material losses.

DFLP Says PLO Prepared for Israel Dialogue

JN2202164490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, said today that the PLO is prepared to start a dialogue with Israel on the basis of the five points adopted by the PLO Central Council in its Baghdad meeting last October.

In Cairo, Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, said there are no differences in views between Egypt and the PLO. He said the tripartite meeting of the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state is an impossibility at present.

Abu-Sharif Says Jewish Influx 'Act of War'

JN2202204690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 90

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has declared that the intensive Soviet Jewish immigration into the occupied territories is an act of war. He said such an action necessitates a similar action on our part; that is, an act of war, which is a very serious matter. Abu-Sharif added that the Palestinians will continue to work for peace, but if the big powers do not take concrete measures, we must consider means that allow us to defend our homeland, he said.

Egypt

PLO Official Denies Differences on Peace Issue

NC2202133890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—A leading PLO official has denied the existence of any differences between Egypt and the PLO, saying that there is full coordination and political understanding between the two sides on all matters concerning peace and the handling of developments in the Palestinian and international arenas.

Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee, told MENA that certain parties are interested in creating such differences in view of the internal crises inside Israel.

The Palestinian official added that the PLO and Egypt fully agree on every detail concerning the peace process and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Mazin said that it is unlikely that the tripartite Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli meeting will be held under current circumstances because of the crisis within the Israeli Government. He referred to the differences among the right-wing religious parties, the resignation of Ari'el Sharon from his post as minister of industry and trade, the collapse of the Moda'i-Levi-Sharon bloc, and the differences between Shim'on Peres, finance minister and Labor Party leader, and Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister and Likud bloc leader.

The Palestinian official said that the current coalition government in Israel is unable to participate in the peace process because of Likud's intransigence.

Commenting on the news that Defense Minister Yitzaq Rabin has said that the Labor Party will have to withdraw from the coalition unless action to resume the peace process is taken within two weeks, Abu-Mazin said that Peres used to talk about the peace process while Rabin used to oppose him. Therefore, it is good to hear such remarks from the Israeli defense minister. This, however, does not mean that any change has taken place in Israeli policy, he said.

Abu-Mazin called on the U.S. Government to fulfill its commitments concerning the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, responsible Palestinian sources have told MENA that Abu-Mazin was today given an oral message from President Husni Mubarak to convey to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

The sources said that the message expresses feelings of amity and appreciation for the Palestinian president. The message also deals with coordination between Egypt and the PLO with regard to the developments in the Palestinian issue, particularly those concerning the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, last night received Abu-Mazin and an accompanying Palestinian delegation composed of 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador to Egypt; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

The sources said that Dr. al-Baz briefed the Palestinian delegation on the outcome of his talks in Moscow concerning the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Abu-Mazin also briefed Al-Baz on his talks in Moscow on the same issue.

PLO 'Princes' Derided for Criticizing Egypt

JN2002184690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 20

["Stances" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] Because we denounced the Palestinian act of aggression against the tour bus, one of the princes of the Palestinian resistance has said that we are interfering in their internal affairs!

As a matter of fact, this is the first time I have read and heard that they have only one policy. I know they are made up of groups and tribes—glass bottles that take on the color of the decisions poured into them by the capitals that sponsor them.

Nor did I know they had internal affairs. We asked them to fight, to make peace, and to talk politics with the United States.

They take our objection to the killing of innocents on our land as Egyptian interference in their policy. After all, their internal policy is to breach the public order in Egypt. This is punishment for Egypt, because it is serious in its moves toward peace and because it has fought with its blood, exhausted its brains, uprooted its families, and widowed its women for the sake of the cause. No one wants a solution to this cause. The toughest punishment for the princes of the Palestinian resistance would a solution to the Palestine question—a solution that would force them to return to Palestine—which most of them were born outside of—and which would allow the Palestinian people to ask them about the alleged land, buildings, and property they left behind in sacrifice for the cause!

In the presence of the Israeli ambassador, a key Palestinian figure told me in my office: We know each other. This man [not further identified] had an olive tree near a water well, no gardens, no lands, no palaces. How, then, can he now leave the villa and the Mercedes and walk barefooted again as he was born?

Their policy is to sabotage security in Egypt. This is their internal affairs—objecting to this policy constitutes interference. For them to be the richest people in Egypt and to buy land in Egypt with Israeli money is interference in their internal affairs. [sentence as published] We, on the other hand, have no internal affairs, because our country is a wasteland whose people have left it for good and scattered themselves all over the world.

We wish that you had one head, one tongue, one heart, or one dog to bark at us if we dare to talk. But you have many heads that you rear from the cracks of the capitals and from the heavens, which are open to lies and deception to the poor people who have had their backs broken from throwing stones—the only noble outrage and honorable anger. Only these people are the noble and the honorable, and they deserve the greatest respect of the world.

Mubarak Meets Arab Economic Council Delegates

NC2202145590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] At the presidential office today, President Husni Mubarak received the Arab ministers and delegation heads taking part in the 48th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, led by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, the council's current chairman and the head of the Palestinian delegation. All the Arab countries are represented in this session, which is currently taking place in Cairo. During the meeting, which was attended by Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa, the president reviewed the most important topics discussed by the council; namely, the Arabs and Europe in the 1992, the Arab-European dialogue, and the North-South dialogue. President Mubarak explained his views on these topics to the economy ministers and discussed the need for inter-Arab economic coordination.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya said the members of the delegation had listened to Mubarak's views on inter-Arab relations, pan-Arab economic coordination, and the need to start on a new course of common Arab action immediately, so that the Arabs may occupy the place they deserve on the new map of the world.

Meanwhile, the council condemned Jewish emigration to and settlement in the occupied Arab-Palestinian territories, saying that these violate international laws and are at the expense of the Palestinians' rights to their lands. The council called on the Arab League secretary general to continue his endeavors, particularly with the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and the United States, to bring about a reconsideration of the measures concerning the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories.

The final recommendations of the council called for support for the Palestinian intifadah and hailed the steadfastness of the Lebanese people as well as the national resistance in southern Lebanon against the Israeli occupation and intervention. The council also praised the outcome of the ministerial meeting on the Arab-European dialogue which was held in Paris last year, saying that it served as a fresh start for the dialogue designed to achieve comprehensive understanding and cooperation between the Arab and European communities. The council underscored the need to strengthen and promote Arab-European economic ties on the basis of the common interests of the two parties.

The council will hold its next session in September.

Economic Program Details Submitted to World Bank

JN2202074990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 11

[By Najla' Dhikra]

[Text] An economic source has stated that the economic reforms program presented by the Egyptian Government to the World Bank last November has received wide acceptance from World Bank and IMF experts. The source added that the program covers the various important production sectors and lays down solutions to many queries raised by the bank with the government last September. The source declared that the implementation of the program will help rectify the economic march and achieve gradual economic progress.

The economic source stated that the present World Bank mission led by senior economist John Wool [name as published], in which senior economist Hans Negman [name as published] coordinates among the mission's experts, will be divided into eight committees. Each committee will hold talks with a number of ministries with the proviso that it end the talks within the current week so that it can set down a conclusion on the economic situation. The Egyptian program will be reviewed with the mission by Spiros Voyatis [name as published], the executive director for Egypt in the World Bank, who will arrive in Cairo on Monday [26 February].

The government's program for economic reforms is summarized in the following steps:

—Reforming and freeing the public sector; reviewing the appropriate framework for new development so as to organize this important sector and separate management from ownership.
—Defining the new framework of the proposed holding companies and their relations with the ministries and the People's Assembly.
—Encouraging the private sector through a clear plan that gives further flexibility and privileges to this important sector in the development process. This, in addition to annulling the differences between the public and private sectors.
—Freeing foreign trade and allowing competition between national and foreign companies to increase efficiency.
—Rationalizing government investments.
—Reviewing the pricing policies in sectors such as energy, some major agriculture commodities such as cotton and rice, some important industrial commodities, and civilian commodities produced by military factories, particularly the durable goods. Reviewing

also the pricing policies for construction items such as cement and steel, as well as the pricing of medicines.

At the same time, the government has included in its program a plan to support low-income sectors. The plan calls for the establishment of a transitional fund to finance projects to train some public sector workers. There is also a medical care program, as the medical care allocations are reduced when the budget faces a deficit. There should be external financial resources in the form of grants to safeguard public health. There are also shortcomings in the independence of the management of these medical services and in supplying hospitals with new and modern equipment.

The source stated that the World Bank asked the government to come up with ideas to support low-income people as a basic objective in the reform program to guarantee its success and implementation. The source added that the World Bank experts voiced satisfaction with and support for the new Egyptian program. The World Bank mission is expected to conclude its talks the week after next. The Bank will start implementing its measures after an agreement is reached with the IMF, whose mission will arrive in March.

Officials expect that an agreement will be reached on the letter of intent between Egypt and the IMF next March and a new stage will begin during which arrears will be rescheduled.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Finance Minister

LD2202212190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1601 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Khurafi met here Thursday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak before leaving for home.

In a statement following the meeting, which was attended by Kuwait's ambassador to Egypt, 'Abd-al-Razzak al-Kandari, Al-Khurafi said he had the honour to meet with President Mubarak, to whom he conveyed the greetings of his highness the amir of Kuwait. Al-Khurafi added President Mubarak had lauded the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Egypt.

He further said he acquainted President Mubarak on the practical steps taken to implement the agreements concluded between the two countries during the visit to Egypt by his highness the amir.

On the three Arab groups: the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, Al-Khurafi said "We in Kuwait believe these groups aim at the Arab welfare, and that they work for the peoples of the Arab region."

On the latest session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, which wound up here yesterday, Al-Khurafi said frank, constructive dialogue has characterized the meetings, which led to good results.

On the Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel, Al-Khurafi said "It is a very important subject, and I believe the Arab foreign ministers would discuss this issue with due seriousness and importance."

The Arab finance and economy ministers who attended the 48th Arab Economic and Social Council meeting met earlier today with Egyptian Premier Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and discussed resolutions and recommendations of the meetings.

Saudi Information Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2202164190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the invitation of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. Al-Sha'ir said that he will hold talks with Al-Sharif on issues pertaining to various aspects of information cooperation between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sharif and Saudi Charge d'Affaires Abu-Bakr Rafi' received the Saudi minister at the airport.

Soviet Official Meets With Interior Minister

NC2202165990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa held an expanded round of talks today with Vladimir Maximov, Soviet deputy interior minister [name and title as received], who is currently on a visit here. The session was attended by a number of leading officials in the Egyptian Interior Ministry; members of the Soviet Interior Ministry delegation; and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo. Discussions during the meeting centered on ways to promote cooperation between the ministries of the two countries, particularly in the fight against drugs and in criminal investigations.

Libyan Agricultural Cooperation Agreement Signed

NC2202103290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0943 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, this morning signed an agreement for agricultural cooperation between Egypt and Libya. The agreement urges the establishment of joint ventures in the areas of land reclamation, the maintenance of agricultural machinery, and the production of improved strains of various crops.

The agreement allows Libyan agriculture experts to attend training courses at the Egyptian International Center and to participate in Egyptian cultivation and livestock programs. Under the agreement, Egyptian land reclamation companies are to build water reservoirs on land being reclaimed in Libya.

Dr. Wali and Eng. al-Qu'ud said that the agreement is a starting point for setting up joint agricultural ventures between the two countries.

The agreement was signed at the conclusion of Al-Qu'ud's four-day [as received] visit to Egypt.

Libyan Official Ends Visit

NC2202094390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, Libya's secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, left Cairo for home this morning following a week-long visit to Egypt.

In a departure statement, the Libyan official said that during his visit he held talks with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and a number of Agriculture Ministry officials on ways to expand cooperation in the field of agriculture and land reclamation and to form Egyptian-Libyan companies in this field.

Al-Qu'ud noted that officials in both countries have agreed to intensify efforts over the next few months to implement the programs already approved.

He added that he discussed with Egyptian officials the need to encourage trade in foodstuffs produced by both countries and to set up joint ventures in the areas of well digging and the construction of water reservoirs and other facilities.

AL-AHRAM on Strengthening Ties With Libya

NC2102080690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 21 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that President Mubarak's talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have strengthened the ties of Arabism and neighborliness joining the two countries. The talks also showed Egypt's desire to assist Libya, particularly with expertise and technical data needed to promote Libyan industry and to accelerate agricultural development projects, as well as to intensify bilateral scientific and health cooperation.

The paper adds that the economic realities in both Egypt and Libya indicate that bilateral cooperation, if directed at promoting pan-Arab economic integration and creating an additional base for inter-Arab coordination and cooperation, could be a major step on the sound path toward consolidating and enhancing Arab economic unity.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From Madrid Talks

NC2302064090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo last night from Madrid, where he attended the meetings of the Egyptian-Spanish joint committee which concluded its work in the Spanish capital yesterday.

In an arrival statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks provided an opportunity to exchange views with Spanish officials on bilateral relations, the Middle East issue, the international situation, and Mediterranean affairs.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We appreciate the Spanish role in support of the peace process and Spain's desire to improve its ties with Egypt. He noted that the two sides agreed that the next meeting of the Egyptian-Spanish committee will take place in Cairo in December. The two sides also agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade, cooperate in investment and the technical and cultural fields, and set up joint ventures.

Sinai Bedouins Jailed on Drug Trafficking Charges

JN2202081290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 6

[By Badr-al-Din Hasan]

[Text] Port Said—The investigation police of the General Administration for Combating Drugs in northern Sinai have arrested a drug trafficker and his wife. A large amount of heroin worth 1 million pounds was found in their possession. They were referred to the public prosecutor's office, which ordered their imprisonment.

Brigadier General Hasan al-Manakhili, head of the Northern Sinai Area, had received information indicating that a bedouin called Salim 'Ayish Mubarak, assisted by his wife, 'Asfurah Muhammad Salih, was smuggling drugs. Colonel Muntasir Shu'ayb, an inspector at the administration, gathered information about the defendant and his wife, who had concealed heroin in their home. A search warrant was obtained and 870 grams of heroin worth 1 million pounds were found in a sack kept in the clothes cabinet. A scale and a sum of money were also found there. Two heroin wrappers were found in the defendant's car.

Libya

'Arafat Arrives for 1-Day Visit to Banghazi

LD2102214290 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Al Bayan al-Awal - Banghazi, al-Nawwar [February] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine arrived at "Beninah" International Airport of al-Bayan al-Awal city of

Banghazi at noon today accompanied by Hakim Bal'awi Palestine envoy to the League of Arab countries and Abu-Tariq the president's advisor on Arab affairs.

In a statement to JANA, president Yasir 'Arafat said I am happy to arrive in Great Jamahiriyah amongst my folks and brothers and to meet my brother the leader and informed him and the latest developments in the Palestine revolution...

"The Palestine cause is witnessing dangerous developments on top of which the Jewish exodus into the land of Palestine and the dangers that exodus poses not only upon the Arab Palestine people but upon the Arab nation as a whole." [sentence as received]

The president of Palestine explained that the leader had warned against the dangerous situations evolving from this dangerous exodus.

[Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 0710 GMT on 22 February carries a one sentence report: "Yasir 'Arafat, and his delegation left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah."]

Al-Qadhdhafi To Close 'All' Anti-'Arafat Offices

JN2202172090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The independent Tunisian magazine L'HUMANITE said today that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will close down the offices of all anti-'Arafat Palestinian organizations. The magazine attributes this step to the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement and the Libyan attempt to restore good relations with the United States. The magazine further notes that 'Arafat met with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Banghazi yesterday.

Major Jallud Speaks on Arab Unity at Rally

LD2202224890

[Editorial report] Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic at 1815 GMT on 22 February broadcasts a live speech by Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud at a rally in Tripoli marking the 32d anniversary of the birth of the United Arab Republic, which brought unity between Egypt and Syria.

Major Jullud urges the development and consolidation of unionist experiments and says unity has become a pan-Arab issue. He says a cultural revolution should be carried out in the Arab world to change mentalities. The experiment of the United Arab Republic transformed dreams into reality. Our views on steadfastness are even being affirmed by Arab leaders like King Husayn, Jallud says. We must put an end to the isolation of the uprising and give it more support, because Zionism and the West are trying to quash it.

Jallud says the emigration of Jews to Palestine is not a matter of human rights, because the Americans are putting up obstacles to their emigration to the United States so that the only choice left for them is Palestine. He says support for the uprising is not a matter of words, it is a matter of action, boycotts, and pressure. The PLO has made many concessions, but these have not been met by any concessions from the Zionists or the Americans. The PLO should be stronger to gain Arab support.

Jallud says events in East Europe do not mean an end to socialism, but rather the end of the one-party system. The choice now is between the capitalist system, which is trying to survive, and the jamahiri system, which is gaining ground.

Jallud calls on workers and youth to stage people's revolutions and on pan-Arab forces to transform their parties into people's committees so that the masses will practice power. He recalls that parliamentary representation is a falsehood and says that the uprising has lasted so long because it has no leader.

Mauritania

Taya Receives Algerian Foreign Minister, Message

AB2202104290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] chairman and head of state, this morning received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali. The meeting took place in the presence of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba and his excellency the Algerian ambassador to Mauritania.

After the audience, the Algerian minister told the press that he delivered to the head of state a message from his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, on strengthening the exemplary relations existing at all levels between the two brotherly, neighboring, Arab, Maghreb, and Islamic countries. Our discussions, which were very fruitful, the Algerian envoy continued, centered on the joint actions that the two countries must take in order to strengthen intra-Arab and intra-African relations.

Interior Minister Returns From Visit to Gambia

AB2202102690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, minister of interior, posts, and telecommunications, returned to Nouakchott yesterday afternoon from Banjul where he delivered a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, to Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara. The message concerns the solid fraternal relations existing between our two countries. In a statement to the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the minister of interior, posts, and telecommunications explained that during the visit, he represented our country at festivities marking the 25th anniversary of Gambia's independence. He also thanked Gambian authorities for the warm welcome and the kind hospitality accorded him during his stay in The Gambia. The minister was accompanied on his visit by a delegation including Gabriel Atsi, adviser at the CMSN presidency, and (Mohamed Mahmoud Moustaba), ambassador at the directorate of the Department of Foreign and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Morocco

Laraki Assails Amnesty International Report

LD2102135890 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 21. (MAP)—Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki has addressed Amnesty International a letter expressing "perplexity" over its "partiality" in reporting on human rights conditions in Morocco.

In his letter to President of Amnesty International's executive committee Peter Duffy, Laraki affirmed Morocco is a "state of right and has the firm intention to remain so," and that those referred to as "political prisoners" or "prisoners of opinion" are but "common law criminals."

Laraki's letter came in answer to a report by Amnesty following a visit it made to Morocco, this February 13 and 14, at the invitation of King Hassan II. The sovereign had received the delegation with whom he discussed at length the Kingdom's policy in matters of human rights.

"This policy", Laraki said, "draws its principles from many sources, foremost of all Islam and norms universally recognized by democratic nations."

As commander of the faithful, he added, King Hassan is "the guarantor of the rights and liberties of citizens, social groups and collectivities" as stipulated by Article 19 of the Moroccan constitution.

Moreover, he went on, the Moroccan political system is based on the principles "traditionally characterizing a state of right: multi-party system, tolerance, separation of powers and respect of the law as the supreme expression of the nation's will" (Article 4 of the constitution which, in Article 9, recognizes and guarantees individual and collective rights and liberties).

Furthermore, Laraki added, the parliament, political parties and human rights associations in Morocco see to it that human rights are respected, and do not hesitate to draw attention to eventual abuse every time they deem it necessary.

This being the case, it is natural that Morocco "adhere to various international conventions on human rights" and make of honoring its commitments "a tradition," Laraki said.

He in this regard stressed that the Moroccan Government is "particularly vigilant" regarding "possibilities of abuse" due to "individual and isolated deviations." He said the government "systematically" investigates into reported abuse of human rights to verify their veracity and take necessary measures.

Morocco is also "very attentive" to calls by world pubic opinion, inviting international media for on-the-spot enquiry, and is always ready to "serenely examine" all remarks addressed to it.

"It is in this spirit that Amnesty International was invited to Morocco, where His majesty the king affirmed Morocco's determination to always move ahead in matters of human rights," Laraki noted.

Yet, he added, in spite of a political system favoring a political life comparable to that in any country "with ancient democratic traditions," certain individuals or groups had "deliberately chosen to act from a position of illegality," exposing themselves to legal sanctions.

"Like all democratic countries," Laraki said, "Morocco can but resort to law to preserve its institutions, its sacred values, its territorial integrity, and to protect property and persons against all acts of violence and subversion."

He noted that it is for "these very acts of violence and subversion" that members of organizations like "Direct Action," "Red Brigades," "Fighting Communist Cells," "Bader-Meinhoff gang," "ETA"...etc have been severely sentenced as "common law criminals" and detained as such.

He further noted that these measures "had never been criticized or contested" and one can but be "perplexed" at certain campaigns around the so-called "political prisoners" or "prisoners of opinion" in Morocco (Amnesty International report, pages 6 and 7), and who are "in no way different" from those considered as simple common law criminals in France, Spain, Italy or West Germany.

He said the identification lists contained in the report Morocco had handed over to Amnesty International show the cases raised are not cases of non-violent political opinion, as has been affirmed, but of characterized violence.

Laraki also dismissed allegations claiming guarantees provided by Moroccan law in matters of penal procedures were "insufficient" and expose the accused to human rights abuse (Amnesty's report, pages 17 and 19). He said such allegations seek only to sow doubt as to the "objectivity" of Moroccan law and the "impartiality of judiciary powers," at a moment even international conventions (Article 9 of the international pact of civil and political rights, Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the universal declaration of human rights) recognize Moroccan law as being "the sole juridical basis regulating the exercise of human rights."

As to Amnesty International's affirmation the Moroccan Government does not sufficiently control its judiciary apparatus (page 19) and even remains "passive" before human rights violations, Laraki said these are simply "baseless." He said the report Morocco handed Amnesty International shows how keen Morocco is on protecting human rights (pages 9-21) and how severe it can be in punishing abuse (pages 29-46). He said the Moroccan report to Amnesty shows there is neither "indulgence" nor "complicity" in this respect on the Moroccan Government's part.

Yet, Laraki said, reactions aroused abroad concerning certain cases, "unfortunately do not take these facts into account." Consequently, he said, one can but feel "perplexed" in front of this "partiality" and the campaign led against Morocco, at a moment it is legitimately seeking to complete its territorial integrity and at a moment it is amidst a promising economic take-off and is attracting foreign investors.

One wonders whether all this talk about human rights is "really motivated by the desire to protect these rights" or whether "there are other motives," Laraki commented.

It is in this perspective, he noted, that the Moroccan Government delegated a ministerial commission, composed of ministers of justice and of the interior, to debate the points raised by Amnesty International "case by case," giving all explanations likely to "definitively dissipate misunderstanding and put and end to confusion."

By doing so, Morocco "once again proves its good intentions and its overture" and hopes Amnesty International's delegation will "take note of these truths and good intentions" and will "convey [words indistinct] impressions it had apparently had during its mission in Morocco," Laraki concluded.

King's Aide Interviewed on Polisario, PLO Issues

PM2202165090 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Feb 90 p 30

[Interview with Mohamed Aouad, adviser to King Hassan II, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Ajjaj] Morocco has worked in various ways and at various levels to resolve the Saharan problem, but the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has rejected its efforts. How do you visualize an end to that problem?

[Aouad] His Majesty King Hassan II has indeed made great efforts to resolve the problem. We made many concessions with a view to resolving it, but no response was made. Now there is no room for any new Moroccan stances. The leaders of the so-called Polisario called for a referendum, and the king immediately accepted that solution. Then, and this is the amazing thing, they turned to procrastination and failed to respond to what they themselves originally demanded. They discovered that a referendum would not be in their interests. We, of course, are completely confident that no wise person would wish to separate from his homeland's territory. Then they set new conditions, which are summed up in the demand for the Army and the administration to withdraw, even though they realize that such conditions are unacceptable and impossible. It is impossible to request an army and an administration to withdraw from their territory. Then they came back to tell us that they wanted to engage in direct negotiations, even though they, more than anyone, know that this is unreasonable, because how can we negotiate with those who take up arms against their own country!

['Ajjaj] So what is solution to this dilemma; that is, Morocco's tolerance and desire to resolve the problem on one hand and the Folisario's impossible conditions on the other?

[Aouad] The referendum to be conducted under UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's supervision and with OAU cooperation, especially under the Egyptian president's chairmanship, could constitute a remedy to that problem, especially as we will accept the results of the referendum, whatever they may be. But we are confident that no one in the Sahara, except certain profiteers, wants to separate from Moroccan territory. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Some say there has been a concealed crisis between Algeria and Morocco recently. What truth is there in this?

[Aouad] Contrary to the rumors circulated by some people, I do not think there is a crisis between the two countries now. In fact, there is fruitful cooperation between the two countries in various fields, both at the bilateral level and the level of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], whose summit in Tunis witnessed full understanding and coordination among UMA leaders. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Morocco has recently been active in its efforts to help find a solution to the Palestinian issue. What has been Morocco's role in that regard?

[Aouad] King Hassan II met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat twice: first, on the sidelines of the UMA meetings in Tunis and, second, during his visit to the Moroccan capital. We have long been making extensive efforts, exploiting Morocco's cordial relations with the parties concerned, to reach a solution acceptable to the Palestinians; that is, the establishment of their independent state and the restoration of their sovereignty over their usurped territory.

Perhaps the recent agreement between King Hassan II and president 'Arafat to form an Arab committee to find a solution to the Palestinian question in implementation of the Casablanca summit's resolutions is proof of the active Moroccan role in that regard. The states to be selected to join that committee will be invited to meet shortly. It seems to me that Arab activities are required now to back the Palestinian cause and the intifadah, and also to confront the dangers of Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel. King Hassan II has on several occasions referred to the emigration and called for comprehensive Arab action. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Protocol With Libya Signed in Rabat

LD2202225690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Moroccan-Libyan Experts Committee ended its work in Rabat this morning with the signing of a protocol on the meeting which includes several proposals which cover the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries. These will be presented to the forthcoming meeting of the Grand Moroccan-Libyan Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

Among the proposals in the protocol are the intensification of trade exchanges between Morocco and Libya, the creation of the means to achieve this, the call for the renewal of the customs agreement regulating trade relations between the two countries which was signed in 1983, and the drawing up of a plan for the exemption of goods produced in the two countries from tariffs. Other proposals call for the creation of joint commercial companies and the strengthening of relations between economic organizations.

In the field of investment, both sides expressed satisfaction with the positive results achieved in this field, especially the projects implemented within the framework of the Moroccan-Libyan Holding Company, and proposed increasing the exchange of investments.

In the financial field, both sides called for cooperation between the central banks of the two countries and expressed their satisfaction with the good conditions in which the banking agreement—signed by these two banks in 1985—is being implemented. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From 'Successful' Egypt Trip

EA2202172090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, returned to the country at (?1730) after a two-day visit to Cairo.

In statements after his return, Lt. Gen. 'Umar said: The visit was successful within the framework of the bilateral consultations and consultations on the (?questions) of the movement. It also discussed the studies of the cooperation phases between the two countries, especially in the fields of the economy and coordination of the (?pact) schemes.

During the visit, a study of the southern problem was completed, in addition to that of the role Egypt is playing to convene a new round of negotiations with Garang's movement, as well as issues of the African Continent. He added that the talks discussed the (?effect) of the Israeli presence in Ethiopia (?through the cooperation trust between) [words indistinct].

Egypt's Ghali Stops Over En Route to Ethiopia

EA2202200690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Arab Republic of Egypt, stopped over at Khartoum airport this morning on his way to Addis Ababa and Kampala.

Dr. Ghali stated that Egypt will strive to offer all possible assistance for the resumption of dialogue and negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement for the establishment of peace in Sudan. Dr. Ghali added that he will hand a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, current chairman of the OAU, to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, and another one to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, as part of the contacts and consultations with the states of the region.

Ghali said that while in Addis Ababa he will meet Mr. Ali Sahlul, the Sudanese foreign minister, as part of the coordination between the Sudanese and Egyptian diplomacy. He added that coordination between the two countries is not only within the framework of the OAU but also within the framework of international organizations in general.

He said that there will be coordination between Sudan and Egypt during the meeting of the current session of the OAU Ministerial Council, which is taking place in Addis Ababa, in addition to the meetings of the states of the Nile Basin Group on the 27th and 28th of this month. A report presented by the UN about cooperation between the Nile Basin states and linking their electricity and telecommunication networks will be discussed at these meetings. [passage omitted]

Ghali asked African states to draw a lesson from the European states which will unite economically in 1992. He said the African states should head for a [word indistinct] union at the continental or regional level so that they can deal (?on equal terms) with the European Community. Dr. Ghali pointed out that the African states have enough strength and solidarity to help them confront any foreign intervention in the continent. [passage omitted]

Minister Condemns Ethiopia's Nile Waters Plans

EA2102201290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA)—Engineer Ya'qub Abu-Shurah, minister of irrigation and water resources, has said that there (?must) be an agreement between the Nile Basin countries to apportion the Nile waters, there should be strict adherence to the agreement as a solution to the present and future problems in the area of water resources.

He further told SUNA that Ethiopia's stand vis-a-vis the exploitation of the waters of the Blue Nile and its future projects constituted a clear contravention of the agreement signed in 1902, which stipulates consultation between Sudan and Ethiopia in the case of embarking on any new projects on the Blue Nile.

The minister added that (?Ethiopia) had continued to be an observer for 25 years since participating in the association of the Nile basin countries, and it had frequently refused to become a member of the association, in spite of contacts and offers made to Ethiopia by the member-states. The minister said that Ethiopia's refusal [words indistinct] and (?lack) of commitment [word indistinct] concerning the Nile waters.

The minister said that the Ethiopian dams project would directly affect the water interests of Sudan and Egypt. He made it clear that Sudan did not object to Ethiopia's right to utilize the waters of the Blue Nile and its tributaries in the Ethiopian highlands, provided this was done within the framework of the required coordination and consultation between the countries benefiting from the resources of those rivers. There was also the need to secure the water resources against regional and international political conflicts.

The minister of irrigation denied that Sudan was planning now or would be planning in the future, to implement any project that would affect Ethiopian territory, pointing out that the proposed Rusayris Dam Lake, after the dam was raised, would not have effects extending to the Ethiopian border. There should be no cause for alarm in this regard.

Kassiano Says Cuba, Israel, RSA Aid Rebels

EA2202152390 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and political supervisor of the Equatoria Region, Brigadier PSC [Passed Staff College] Dominic Kassiano, has revealed that 12,000 rebel soldiers are being trained in Cuba.

In a news statement in Juba, Brig. Kassiano said there are a number of countries aiding the rebels. Among them are: Israel, Cuba, and South Africa. He cited other examples of the tanks and other heavy weaponry used by the rebels in their recent attacks in western Equatoria, as part of the outside backing.

Brig. Kassiano called upon Equatorians to be ready to take up arms to defend their honor and integrity. He added that the rebels are against Equatoria for its stand against the movement and destructions that the movement advocates. He appealed to the youths in the region to join the popular defence force.

SPLA Claims Position Captured Near Maridi

EA2202122990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the "Bright Star" campaign attacked and captured the enemy position at Project Development Unit, two miles from the main barracks in Maridi [west Equatoria] yesterday at 2340. The enemy ran in disarray and joined the main barracks, while leaving behind the following equipment captured:

One (Gronov) machinegun number 6241 in good condition; big quantity of G-three ammunition; 18 shells of (?42) mm mortar; hand grenade and one motorcycle, Suzuki, number 8092.

The siege on Maridi continues, and the garrisons at Yei and Lanya must know that no relief will reach them from Maridi or from Juba.

The junta's Jundi al-Watan al-Wahid [soldier of the united homeland] is bogged down between Watt and Duk [Upper Nile] and it will be destroyed.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander appealed to those of Yei and Lanya to withdraw to Juba. We will open the route for them.

Juba Airlift Reportedly Easing Situation

EA2202171790 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The military governor of Equatoria Region, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Allison Manani Magaya, said the supply constraint which affected people in Juba is now over, after the airlifting of a good quantity of food supplies from Khartoum and Nairobi. He said the airlifting of the supplies would continue, and that it is expected that strategic resources of commodities will increase during the next few days.

Governor Magaya appealed to the national capitalists in the Sudan to extend wealth to their brothers and sisters in the south, especially displaced people who are badly in need of tents.

Gen Magaya said the security situation in Juba and surrounding areas is stable, and that the Armed Forces are in full control of the situation. He added that what some news agencies broadcast as copied from the rebel radio have no grain of truth, but is meant as a desperate attempt to destabilize security in the area.

On the other hand, the chairman of the popular committee in Equatoria Region, Engineer Barnabas Dumo, has said the formation of committees at the regional level have been completed with the last batch of members taking oath before the military governor recently. He added that the formation of area and quarter committees will soon follow.

Al-Bashir Calls For Anti-Corruption Drive

EA2202133790 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The president of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, says the major task of the revolution is to prepare a conducive atmosphere for the people to mobilize themselves against corruption and increase production through self help. He said when the revolution called for uplifting of the burden of living from the people, it was clear that such a call cannot be implemented without the people taking part. The RCC president made these remarks while addressing a gathering at Khawjalab [residential area of Khartoum] yesterday. He pointed out that the revolution was sure that the Sudanese people would not wait for outsiders to come and build the Sudan, but rather the Sudanese people themselves, so that prosperity may overflow to other people in the African Continent as well as the Arab and Islamic states.

Tunisia

Islamic Students Clash With Police; Arrests Made

LD2202200590 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Unrest continues in Tunisia's universities. For three days, some 10 campuses in the country have been the scenes of clashes between the forces of order and Islamic students. From the start, this puts the crisis in the political terrain. According to Islamic leaders, several hundred students reportedly have been arrested.

On the spot in Tunis, (Ridha Bouguesi) reports: The Tunisian police this morning continued to seal off university buildings on the campuses in Tunis, Sfax, Sousse, and Nabeul where last night Islamic students holding a sit-in were dispersed. Students caught in the act of causing unrest have been taken for questioning, and according to informed sources, their number reportedly has reached over 800.

The government first asked the rectors of faculties to intervene and put an end to the occupation of university buildings by using reasonable and responsible methods. The strikers refused to vacate the premises and were determined to resort to violence. So the police intervened using tear gas. Policemen and several students were injured during the clashes. Students who are arrested and found guilty risk losing their exemption from military service and may be drafted into the army. They will also be deprived of scholarships, and advantages in kind, such as university lodgings.

The dramatic turn of events and the obstinacy of Islamic students, who impose violent strikes on the rest of their fellow students, has caused a wave of indignation among teachers and students' parents. The risk of an unfinished academic year at the university cannot be ruled out after several weeks of strikes which obviously have a political coloring, and the Islamic movement is most often accused of being responsible.

Student Unrest Noted

LD2202235790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Following the intervention of the security forces to put an end the sit-ins by some student groups at some university premises, TAP [TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESSE] has learned that a number of arrests were carried out. These were limited to persons caught red-handed using violence and conducting sit-ins by force.

Although the reasons for the arrests were similar in various university locations, in Sousse they were not related to the sit-in attempt, but to disturbances in the streets two days ago when extremist student minorities tried to set up a barricade, hamper traffic, and throw stones, which led to the wounding of some passers-by, and damage to a number of cars.

We have learned that 472 persons were arrested. It has been decided to deprive 94 of them from exemption from military service and, consequently, to mobilize them immediately. Investigations are being continued with the others. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire

LD2202144390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] On the occasion of the UN envoy's Johannes Manz visit, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] has announced a unilateral truce. Our colleague Zine Eddine Bouhafs contacted the ambassador of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic to Algeria by phone this morning and asked him first about this truce. He had this to say:

[Begin recording] [?Louali] [name as heard] First of all, I would like to offer this remark about Mr. Manz's visit. His visit reflects the interest of the United Nations and its concern for the rights of the Saharan people. It also reflects its continuity in its work until the independence of the Western Sahara is achieved. Furthermore, yes, the Polisario has decided to announce a truce. This truce is aimed at creating a suitable and appropriate climate for Mr. Manz so that his visit takes place under positive conditions, where security and stability prevail. This decision to call a truce was made by the Polisario following a request from Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general. We also wanted it to be a contribution to help bring about a suitable climate to enable the international organizations to carry out their mission in the region.

[Bouhafs] Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador. Can we talk now about peace prospects between the Front and Morocco?

[?Louali] Peace prospects require a strong will because while the Polisario and the Sahara Government had and are still expressing their will to create a suitable climate for peace and create real and tangible prospects for peace, we deplore the fact that the other party, Morocco, has not yet offered anything towards peace. On the contrary, everybody knows of the efforts made by the Polisario since the start of the UN and African peace initiative in the Western Sahara. From the beginning of the process, we announced a truce in 1987, and again last year, 1989. Unfortunately, and everybody can confirm this, we did not receive a positive reponse from the other party. Therefore, the peace prospects still depend on the readiness or intention of the other party to contribute to peace and to work with us as a party to the conflict to create the suitable conditions for such a peace. [end recording]

Kuwait

Official Reports on U.S.-Flagged Tanker Fire

LD2202143490 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA)—'Abd-al-Fattah Sulayman al-Badr, chairman of the board and appointed member of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, said here today a fire had broken out this morning in the storage tank of a U.S.-registered Kuwaiti tanker off the al-Sharjah coast.

Al-Badr, in a statement released here, added the fire started in one of the storage tanks of the tanker "Surf City" at 1000, and it soon spread to other areas. The fire still was raging at the time this statement was being prepared. Al-Badr went on to say the tanker, formerly known as "Umm al-Aysh," with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes, was on its way to Europe laden with fuel and naphtha. He indicated 25 crew members were on board the tanker, and 23 of them had been rescued. Four of the rescued who had sustained injuries had been transferred to a Dubai hospital where they received immediate treatment. He added: "Two crew members are reported missing."

Al-Badr pointed out a U.S. Navy ship was in the region and "rescued the tanker's crew."

He said the tanker "is a Kuwaiti tanker, and was registered in the United States approximately two years ago. It is owned by the U.S. Chesapeake Shipping Company Inc., which is owned by the Kuwaiti Oil Tankers Company. The tanker previously was named 'Umm al-Aysh,' it is an 80,000-tonne [as received] tanker, and it was built in Japan in 1981."

He said since the company's primary interest is preserving the lives of the crew, it has sent representatives of the tanker's company and of the Chesapeake chairman to the United Arab Emirates to personally supervise the welfare of the crew and give them all necessary help.

Al-Badr concluded his statement, saying: "There is comprehensive insurance coverage for the ship, its cargo, and crew. Attempts still are being made to rescue the ship and its cargo."

Oman

Minister Accepts Invitation To Visit Iran

PM2202114490 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 13 Feb 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Rawwas Receives Invitation From Iranian Information Minister To Visit Tehran"]

[Text] ONA—Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas yesterday morning received in his office Mohammad 'Arab, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to the Sultanate, who handed his excellency a written message from Mohammad Khatami, Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance. The message contained an invitation for Al-Rawwas to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Information Minister al-Rawwas gratefully accepted the invitation, and a date for the visit soon will be set.

Oil Ministry Source: No Increase in Output

PM2202115090 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 14 Feb 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Responsible Source at Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals: No Change in Sultanate's Oil Policy"]

[Text] ONA—A responsible source at the Petroleum and Minerals Ministry has denied the existence of any change in the Sultanate's output policy, affirming the Sultanate's intention to maintain the rate of 650,000 barrels of oil a day within the framework of its efforts to help stabilize prices in world oil markets.

In his statement to ONA the source stressed his categorical denial of any intention to increase output. He said reports by some newspapers in the region the day before yesterday that the Sultanate was to increase its output referred only to the network's output capacity, but made no reference whatsoever to any intention to increase output.

Qatar

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN2302093890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh this evening arrived in Doha on a four-day visit to Qatar.

The visit falls within the framework of a tour by the Tunisian minister to a number of states in the region. The Tunisian minister has visited the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and handed a message dealing with bilateral relations from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

United Arab Emirates

Tunisian Foreign Minister Meets Shaykh Zayid

JN2202120390 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a written message from His Excellency Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message was delivered by Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid

Escheikh when the president received him at the Rawdat al-Rif guest house this morning.

The Tunisian president said he conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan the greetings and appreciation of his brother the Tunisian president and renewed an invitation for the president to visit Tunisia and review fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to bolster joint cooperation. He said he informed the president of the outcome of the recent session of the Arab Maghreb Union. He noted the meeting also dealt with current Arab issues, and that he listened to the wise views of the president on these issues.

The following attended the meeting: His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, head of the Works Department; Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Nasir Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; Khamis Bin-al-Rumaythi, director of the president's office; and 'Ali al-Hashshani, Tunisian ambassador to the state.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2202210890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh left Abu Dhabi this evening after a 2-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit the Tunisian minister conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Foreign Affairs Minister Returns From Morocco

JN2302094590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this evening returned to Abu Dhabi following a several-day visit to Morocco.

Rashid 'Abdallah stated he had delivered a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, to King Hassan II of Morroco. The message deals with current developments on the Arab arena and relations between the two countries, he said.

Yemen Arab Republic

Chief of Staff Receives Libyan Military Official

JN2202211190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, Armed Forces chief of staff, received this morning brother Colonel Abu-al-Qasim 'Ali (?Husayn), director of Military Medical Services in the sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and his delegation.

During the meeting they reviewed relations between our country and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the field of military medicine. They also discussed ways to bolster relations in this field through exchanging medical expertise and cadres [word indistinct] between the two fraternal countries.

Saddam, 'Arar Letters Address Arab Relations

JN2202141590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the call for Arab solidarity to face dangers in light of developments, to work together, and to cooperate in the tasks of building and construction in order to secure happiness for the Arab people and give their nation an influential human role, is the right call and an emblem that should always prevail.

In a written message to Jordanian House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar in reply to the cable his excellency had earlier received from him, the president added: We dealt with this issue earlier, and did our best to call for a specific program and implement it to make the positive state of affairs—which you and I intend to create—a permanent state dominating Arab relations, and whose assertion or relinquishment is not subject to whims and vagaries. We expressed these ideas clearly in the document we made public to the Arabs on 8 February 1980. His excellency said the document only includes some basic principles without any mention—either good or bad—of any Arab country. He added that the regime in Syria was the first to oppose the document and to initiate moves on the Arab scene against it, although his contacts with the Arab countries were only designed to explain the contents and aims of this document, without pressing for a specific stance. The reason is, the president stated, that we presumed the document to be fit for discussion among ourselves as Arabs until we could reach a unified formula that would make a unified stance materialize. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn recalled some of the background to the relationship between Iraq and the regime in Syria, saying in this connection: I do not mean to digress from the point at issue, nor to disregard the nation's current essential needs, but I only intend to hit the core of what can be rationally worked out.

Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's message:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Esteemed brother Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

I have received your letter and the appeal it included. I have pondered its meaning which is undoubtedly based on the motives of an Arab believer who wishes good for the Arab nation.

The call for Arab solidarity to face the threats in light of new developments, to work together, and to cooperate in the tasks of building and construction in a way that secures happiness to their people and gives a prominent human role to their nation, is the right one, and an emblem which should always prevail.

We tackled this issue earlier, and did our best to call for a specific program and to implement it, making this positive state of affairs—which you and I intend to create—a continuous one in Arab relations whose assertion or relinquishment is not subject to whims and vagaries. Moreover, we set out these ideas clearly in the document we made public to the Arabs on 8 February 1980.

Despite the fact that this document, which is enclosed here with my message, only includes basic principles without any mention—either good or bad—of any Arab country, the regime in Syria was the first to oppose the document and to initiate moves on the Arab scene against it, although our contacts with the Arab countries were only designed to explain the contents and aims of this document, without pressing for a specific stance. The reason is that we presumed the document to be fit for discussion among ourselves as Arabs until we could reach a unified formula that would make a unified stance materialize.

We have made it clear to the brothers—kings and presidents—who expressed their desire to jointly endorse the document at the time, that we preferred first to wait until the topics of the document matured through mutual dialogue. Then, those who believed in it could endorse the document. But then there was the war between us and Iran, and consequently, we limited our endeavors to the media so that some Arabs might not misconstrue our appeal to them to discuss the document.

When the war stopped, we immediately issued a document that included the principles we believe are the essence for forging clean Arab relations built on solidarity, care, love, and trust, in order for us to become one hand in the process of building and to pool our efforts in a single direction against hostile attempts. Two basic principles were among the highlights of the document: noninterference in internal affairs and nonuse of force among the Arabs. We have signed that document along with some of the Arab brothers. We will sign it again and abide by its contents along with the Arab brothers who wish to abide by the document.

Brother Speaker of the House of Representatives, Brother Deputies of the fraternal Jordanian people. Part of the criticism levelled at us Arabs is that when we deal with a certain issue we do not familiarize ourselves with its background, which could help us tell the possible from the impossible and facilitate our choice from among the possible options and the more effective means, so that our choice would be acceptable and influential when approved. Another part of the criticism is that we are emotional when we think and make decisions. Although I know the difference between emotion and emotionalism on the one hand, and on the other the emotion that any human relations need, especially pan-Arab relations, to establish bridges and impart warmth to Arab relations, especially after the war experience, I share the critic's criticism of any stance that disregards background, especially if this stance is connected with an enemy or an adversary.

To keep my commitment to the line that keeps me away from what is criticized, I have to go back to some, not all, of the background to the relation between Iraq and the regime in Syria. By doing so, I do not mean to digress from the point at issue, nor to disregard the nation's current essential needs, but I only intend to hit the core of what can be rationally worked out.

No nation, people, or individual can be viewed in isolation from its historical background. This, I believe, is a universally-accepted principle. Our enemies in Israel always look back to history and give it great importance, which is one of the reasons for their strength.

The head of the regime in Syria is now 60 or more years old; he has been in a leading position for about 30 years, and in command for 20 years. We do not want to go too far with the Arab saying that "Habits of youth become the habits of old age", but, for the sake of the dialogue and without closing the door to any possibilities—and God can change men's hearts—we say: If the head of the Syrian regime has reached this age and ruled for so long, should we expect him to adopt a policy different from the one we know or to adopt behavior different from that which has characterized him throughout his life and for his long time in power?

In order to illustrate the answer to this question, we will recall some background information concerning the head of the Syrian regime's relations with the Arab nation and Iraq.

In their relations with others—as you know in Jordan—people are judged by such criteria as courage, generosity, honesty, chastity, and faithfulness. Have these been the traits of that regime's policies and positions?

Each Arab country can claim some of these characteristics, whether with respect to the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Arab-Iranian conflict, or the ordinary and extraordinary Arab-Arab relations. Does anyone know of any positive thing of this sort from the Syrian regime? If so, please tell us so we can have hope that the regime might change itself.

The following are examples of harm done to the nation by the head of the Syrian regime:

In June 1972, Iraq made a decisive move—decisive in the full sense of the word—when it nationalized the monopolistic foreign oil companies. That was an important step, as no one before us had done it except Mosaddeq in Iran, and you know what became of Mosaddeq as a result. After our action, we were surprised to receive a message from the Syrian regime informing us that it was going to stop the flow of our nationalized oil in the pipeline through Syria to the Mediterranean if we did not pay more than the amount that the monopolistic foreign oil companies had paid Syria.

We were shocked by that unexpected position from a regime that we, until that time, had described as an Arab regime. As a result of this position, we were torn between two choices: Either to reject the demand and cease the export of our nationalized oil—which would have rendered the great nationalization decision a failure—or accept the demand, which would have been wrong and harmful to the the Iraqi people, who trusted us. What made the situation more bitter, however, was the malicious tendency by the Syrian regime to exploit an illegitimate opportunity. We were forced to accept their demand.

But despite this shameful position, whose aim was to harm not only the Iraqi Government but also the Iraqi people at a grave and serious moment in the confrontation with the oil companies, Iraq rushed to help Syria as soon as the October 1973 war broke out. Had it not been for God's protection and the valiant Iraqi Army, Damascus would have fallen into the hands of the Israeli occupiers.

In the summer of 1975, the Syrian regime cut off the Euphrates waters from Iraq. Agriculture and livestock throughout the Euphrates basin were destroyed and millions of Iraqi farmers were affected, so much so that they had to travel far in search of water to drink.

Then came the agreement we reached in November 1978 prior to the Baghdad summit. At that time, we tried to forget the wounds and turn over a new page at a critical point for the Arab nation and the Palestine question. For the nine months the agreement lasted, we got nothing from Syria but maneuvers and later deception and treachery.

War broke out between Iraq and Iran, and instead of taking an honorable stand as the brothers did—at least for the sake of paying back a great debt, which is an obligation of men who acknowledge their debt, if not for the sake of pan-Arab principles—the president of the Syrian regime took Iran's side. He supported it with weapons and his sly expertise, which helped prolong the war and shed more Iraqi blood on the battlefields and in the cities. Thus, and for the third time, the Syrian regime did not stop at plotting and harming the Iraqi leadership, but went further deliberately to harm the people and the army and to contribute to the killing of the Iraqi people and the occupation of their Arab territory.

When the head of the Syrian regime realized that the Arabs were determined to hold their summit in Amman in November 1980, and that the summit would discuss the subject of the Iraq-Iran war, he boycotted the summit and deployed his armies on the Jordanian border in order to sow confusion and obstruct the summit.

The Iraqi people and army have not forgotten that when the Iranian regime was launching successsive attacks in 1982, the Syrian regime cut off the oil pipeline through Syria and deprived Iraq, which was waging a decisive battle in defense of its land and destiny, of its main source of revenue for securing the requirements of defending the homeland and the people's livelihood.

Nor have they forgotten that the Syrian regime facilitated the Iranian Air Force raid on the al-Walid air base in the far western region of Iraq on 4 April 1981. That base was originally set up to assist the Syrian and Jordanian Armed Forces as part of the Eastern Front plan in the sixties and seventies. The head of the Syrian regime could not deny this when faced with it during our meeting at the Amman summit in 1987 in the presence of several Arab brother leaders.

Among the unforgettable episodes of that incident was the tragedy of Colonel Fakhri Husayn Jabbar, commander of "Rahmatallah" base, who committed suicide after the raid on his base, which was outside the range of the Iranian planes. He was surprised that the raid was made possible by an Arab country.

Despite all that, and in accordance with pan-Arab and Ba'th Party principles that make it the duty of of the Ba'th strugglers to rectify deviation wherever it occurs and to give a chance to those who can benefit from it—and in appreciation of our brother His Majesty King Husayn—we laid aside the wounds of Iraq and the Arab nation and responded to his gracious appeal and met with Hafiz al-Asad in Jordan in April 1987.

During two meetings, one of which lasted 12 hours, instead of apologizing for what he had done against Iraq, and instead of soothing raging tempers and treating bleeding wounds, Hafiz al-Asad, as usual, began to threaten that he could increase Iran's military potential against us if he wanted to, and denied what we knew about his known support for Iran throughout the war. He confirmed that he still had more weapons that he had not yet given to Iran, and that had he wanted to, he could have damaged the Iraqi Army and its Air Force in particular, which had the honor to take part bravely in the October War from the very beginning—on the Egyptian front on 6 October, and on the Syrian front on 7 October. It is natural that our reply to this would reflect our known position.

During that meeting, it was clear that he did not want to put things right, and that what he told His Majesty King Husayn—to the effect that he wanted to rectify the situation and to change his position—was only a tactic the Syrian ruler resorts to from time to time when he is in a financial or political impasse on the international, Arab, or domestic levels. In light of this, the meeting ended without result.

Later, we came to Amman to attend the 8 November 1987 summit, and once again some of our brothers, primarily brother King Husayn, appealed to us, and in fact insisted to the point of embarrassment, that we meet with the head of the Syrian regime. We responded that we would meet with him, although the Iraqi leadership had made a firm decision earlier not to meet with him. The meeting was held in the presence of six brothers: King Husayn, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President Chadli Bendjedid, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Following meetings and lengthy talks, the head of the Syrian regime pledged to the conferees that he would commit himself to supporting the Arabs' vital issues and would also implement the resolutions adopted by the summit on the topics it had discussed, the most important of which was the position on the Iraq-Iran war. It seemed that, because the head of the Syrian regime did not get the financial aid he expected from some Arab brothers, and in keeping with his nature of going back on his pledges, no sooner had the summit ended in Amman than we were surprised the next day by a statement made by his foreign minister to the effect that the Syrian ruler would not abide by the summit's resolution on Iran. Thus, he adopted the same old position of playing for time with respect to the war and of insisting on causing harm to the nation and to Iraq.

However, with God's help, the Arab nation defeated its enemy when the Iraqi Armed Forces triumphed over their enemies. Then, darkness was defeated and the sun of the Arabs rose again, thanks be to God.

Your message, brothers, refers to the requirements of safeguarding pan-Arab security. You know that Iraq, along with the Arab nation, has not faced in this period of their history anything more difficult or dangerous than what they faced during the eight-year Iranian aggression. If that was how the head of the Syrian regime behaved toward that grave danger, what can Iraq and the nation expect from him in confronting other threats to pan-Arab security?

Perhaps, in making your judgments you forget what the Syrian regime and its head have done to the Arabs, apart from Iraq, such as the attack on the Tal al-Za'tar camp in Lebanon in the seventies and the murder of Palestinian men, women, and children. Perhaps you also forget the massacres that took place in 1983 and later in Tripoli and Beirut in the Palestinian camps. You should not forget the Syrian regime's responsibility for the occupation of Lebanon and the killing of its people. Nor should you forget the Syrian regime's role in fomenting sedition and confusion among the Lebanese until they reached this impasse, which will end—God only knows when—through the efforts of the zealous Arabs, God willing.

Brothers, this is only a drop in the ocean of what the head of the Syrian regime has done to Iraq and the Arab nation. For a man of his age, which is not young, and with his long experience in power, as we said, do you believe that he will change his tactics and nature today in a serious, not tactical, manner?

After all this, brothers, if you expect something positive from the head of the Syrian regime, we should, before taking any formal step, and in order not to be fooled by him or others, specify what is essential. The first essential requirement is an apology, worded appropriately, by the head of the Syrian regime to the nation and to the

Iraqis for his policies and actions that have harmed the nation. To demonstrate that he is serious about changing the situation and joining the Arab nation, he must pull his forces out of Lebanon so that this wounded Arab country can recover, and to reassure us all that he will not repeat this action—an action we reject.

Apology and reprimand are dealt with, in one way or another, in God's book and in Islamic law. This topic covers, in a definite way, those who divorce their wives more than once.

Islam stipulates that, if a man wants to remarry a wife whom he has divorced more than once, she must marry another man as a moral deterrence for him, so that he will not use divorce in an improper manner. The head of the Syrian regime has frequently divorced the nation's principles and the requirements of its security. Therefore, the Islamic rule should apply to him too. Apology has been used before in relations among states and among the Arabs. We all remember His Majesty King Husayn's message to the head of the Syrian regime criticizing some official Jordanian organs involved in Jordanian-Syrian relations. On the basis of that message and other things, Jordanian-Syrian relations were rectified.

When we remember this and propose practical and effective formulas, we should not be accused by others of failing to avert problems and calamities like those that plagued the Arab nation in the past. In such a case, our steps should be guided to the path that, God willing, serves the Arab nation and provides a clear chance—for whoever is willing to take it—to proceed and thus abandon previous positions. This would reassure us that the service that we want him to render would be forthcoming in the future. God is great and our goodwill is above suspicion.

[Signed] Your Brother Saddam Husayn, Baghdad
[Dated] 25 Rajab 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 20 February 1990

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn received earlier a message from Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives. The following is the text of this message:

Your Excellency Esteemed Brother President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq. First, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks, appreciation, and respect to Your Excellency for the ceaseless efforts that you have made in national, Arab, and international affairs to fulfill the pan-Arab aspirations of the Arab nation and to repulse the enemies of Arabism and Islam. I would also like to convey to you an appeal from the Jordanian House of Representatives, whose aspirations reflect the Arab masses' conscience and hopes. This House has unanimously decided to make a strong appeal on behalf of the inner feelings of these masses that hope for a resurgence of the Arab spirit, urging you to make concerted efforts and take a unifed pan-Arab stand to defend pan-Arab security, which is indivisible, and to safeguard the Arab people's right to exist. We are here referring to the people facing a single enemy; that is, the Zionist Israeli enemy. We hope that this cry, particularly coming from Jordan as it is right now, will acquire a special significance, as it originates in an Arab country that constitutes the last line of defense for the Arab East.

Now, in particular, the Jordanian House of Representatives feels strongly that we, as one people in the face of a single enemy, are facing a choice between survival and death, between existence and extinction. This demands that together we draw up a new strategy to unify us all in a new stance based on the full cohesion of those Arabs facing Israel. Such cohesion demonstrates a preference for life when death stares one in the face.

We appeal to you to take effective steps to end differences and to put relations in order so that we can build a unified Arab position capable of facing up to the challenges confronting our nation; and so that the principle of the common destiny of Jordan, Syria, and Iraq in every sphere can be consecrated. Of special significance here is the sphere of defense, which must be singled out by having a definite policy to which the three states would commit themselves to forge a single eastern front with the support of all Arab states. May God grant you success, protect you, and help you walk the path to unity and impregnability.

[Signed] Sulayman 'Arar, Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives

Ramadan, Delegation Leave for Amman Summit

JN2302132090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today left for Amman to take part in Amman's summit of the Arab Cooperation Council member states. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by a delegation comprising Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minsiter; Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister; Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, chief of the Presidential Office; Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning; and Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade.

Trade Minister Returns From Cairo Meeting

JN2302070590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and his accompanying delegation today returned to Baghdad after taking part in the meetings of the 48th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, which concluded in Cairo today.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the Council has issued a number of resolutions and recommendations that will contribute to improving joint economic Arab action and strengthening economic integration among the Arab states. He added that the Council has studied the impact of the European Common Market on Arab trade and banks.

Planning Minister Returns From Portugal 22 Feb

JN2302070990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and his accompanying delegation today returned to Baghdad after he led the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the 4th session of the joint Iraqi-Portuguese committee.

In a statement to INA, the minister said he signed an agreement with Portugal on economic cooperation that aims to improve trade exchange, strengthen economic relations, and improve technical and scientific cooperation.

He added that he held a meeting with the Portuguese foreign minister which dealt with the humanitarian implications and dimensions of President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative.

Labor Gives Likud Ultimatum on Peace Talks

TA2202160590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau has unanimously endorsed the ultimatum to the Likud. Good evening to our correspondent Dov Gilhar, at Labor Party headquarters at 110 Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv:

Good evening. Following this afternoon's meeting of the Labor Party Bureau, Minister Ya'aqov Tzur told us the balloon now has gone up. I think we are in the midst of a crisis that has a timetable, Tzur said. He added the Likud either must come to its senses and join us in formulating a proposal permitting an Israeli-Palestinian meeting, or new political alliances will be formed, which means the Labor Party leaving the government.

The ultimatum was adopted unanimously. The Labor Party Bureau instructs Labor ministers in the Cabinet to bring the issues enabling the launching of peace negotiations to a conclusive debate within two weeks. The Labor Party has come to the conclusion the issues that can guarantee the furthering of the peace process must be anchored immediately in unequivocal decisions, and that any further delay in the political process will cause Israel great damage and harm its crucial interests. This decision won a great majority here.

During the Bureau's meeting Defense Minister Rabin said he supported the draft proposal because he had good reason to feel three out of the four major issues on the agenda had been resolved in a manner acceptable to Israel. The defense minister enumerated those questions: one of them was the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the second was the identity of the announcing party, and the third was the agenda of the talks. Rabin stated he would not have supported the decision otherwise. I lent my hand to it on the assumption a partner for negotiations exists; I did not arrive at this conclusion out of hypothetical arguments. Whoever thinks this move was designed to disband the government can count me out. This action will enable us to carry on within the framework of the national unity government. Rabin repeated this statement several times, stressing the intention is to maintain the unity government in order to further the political process.

Rabin asserted that this proposal does not help those who intend to break up the government, but instead affords the government a chance of continuing the process. Otherwise, I would not have supported it, Rabin said. This was the decision adopted at the Labor Party Bureau. As stated earlier, the clock starts ticking today. The Labor Party has allotted the Likud two weeks to launch the political process.

Likud Factions Urge Rejection

TA2202202190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The constraints camp and the Liberal faction breakaways demand the prime minister reject the Alignment ultimatum. During a stormy session at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv, they demanded the Likud Central Committee convene before any political decisions are reached in the Inner Cabinet.

Prime Minister Shamir's associates responded by saying the members of the constraints camp are attempting to drag the Likud into the opposition so they could later take control of it. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [political correspondent Hanan 'Azran addressing Prime Minister Shamir at Likud headquarters, broadcast in progress] Let us put it this way: Do you reject the Alignment ultimatum?

[Shamir] I received no ultimatum. I do not regard any appeal to me as an ultimatum. We will discuss every issue at the right time and as called for according to our understanding.

['Azran] What about the statements issued tonight by the constraints ministers? Minister Levi accused you of responsibility for....

[Shamir, interrupting] I will not argue with them.

['Azran] With all of them?

[Shamir] I refuse to enter a discourse with them.

['Azran] Thank you. [passage omitted]

Likud Rejects Ultimatum

TA2202170590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[By Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] Here is the Likud reaction to the decision made by the Labor Party Bureau 15 minutes ago. The Likud catagorically rejects any Labor Party ultimatums. The Likud said the Labor Party should not be misled by internal difficulties within the Likud. The Likud will prevent negotiations with the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state at any cost. This was the Likud response to the Labor Party's resolution.

As for what is happening here on the 14th floor of Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv, we have just two of the constraints ministers: Levi and Moda'i, as well as their affiliated Knesset members [MK's] headed, of course, by MK Ari'el Sharon. They have been convened here for 75 minutes already to discuss their future steps.

These were David Levi's statements from just before the meeting: The ultimatum delivered to the prime minister by the Alignment serves as clear evidence of the abysmal depths the Likud has sunk to and how correct the prognosis was that the political line implemented by the prime minister is precipitating a crisis. The prime minister now must decide whether to bow to the Alignment's pressure or dissolve the government. This situation has led Defense Minister Rabin to claim the Alignment is leading the Likud by the nose in the national unity government. The blurring of positions has brought us to the brink of the breakup of the government and has caused the dissolution of the powerful adhesive that preserved the Likud's unity.

David Levi directed his statements at the prime minister, adding it still is not too late to save the movement.

MK Ari'el Sharon also has his share of complaints against the prime minister. Just before he entered the meeting, we asked Sharon whether the Likud is disintegrating:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] There is no reason for the Likud to disintegrate. Much to our regret, we find ourselves facing a situation in which the Likud leadership is leading the movement toward disintegration. Every effort should be made to save the Likud.

[Deqel] How is this to be done?

[Sharon] I myself repeatedly have said, and will do so again, that action must be taken within the framework of the Likud. I regret any organizational activities not within that framework. I myself will operate only within the Likud, and to save the Likud, one must rescue the movement from itself. The Likud must be saved from its leadership.

[Deqel] From the prime minister?

[Sharon] Certainly. The man who brought the Likud to its present state is the prime minister. He is responsible for the Likud's present situation.

[Deqel] Are you calling on him to resign, Mr. Sharon?

[Sharon] I am not asking anyone to do anything right now. I currently am calling for taking action to save the Likud...[changes thought]...the spreading of strife and contention within the Likud. After all, one can see how and who is instigating these contentious actions. Anyone who still feels concern for the Likud's future—and I regard myself as one of them—will make every effort to strengthen the Likud and stop these destructive actions promulgated by the prime minister and his close advisers.

[Deqel] If elections take place this year, will Ari'el Sharon run for the leadership of the Likud?

[Sharon] The answer is yes. [passage omitted]

'Draft' List of Palestinian Delegates Detailed

TA2302100990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

[By Orli Azulay-Katz, Bina Barzel, Shim'on Schiffer, and Washington correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpts] The political crisis that came to a head in the Alignment ultimatum to Shamir—"a decision within two weeks"—currently focuses mainly on one issue: the list of Palestinians who will participate in the delegation to the talks in Cairo.

It was learned yesterday certain Israeli figures already have a copy of the draft list, which includes the names of 10 Palestinians. The names of two of the leading Palestinian leaders in the West Bank are missing: Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah. [passage omitted]

Senior political sources who saw the list contend there is a possibility, albeit slim, the Likud will be able "to live" with it, because it is not structured according to criteria. For example, therefore, the issue of East Jerusalem is circumvented in a way permitting inclusion of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash from the West Bank Journalists Association. He has an office in Jerusalem (although not a domicile), as well as another residence in Hebron. It was agreed his invitation would be sent to Hebron.

The list was compiled following the recent political contacts between Rabin and Baker and between Peres and Mubarak. During the last few days, Rabin disclosed he has raised an idea for the list to be presented and every name to be reviewed on its own, without announcing the criteria (deportees, residents of East Jerusalem, etc.) Rabin said this would be one way of making it possible for the Likud to take part in the process.

Rabin said the only criterion will be that the delegation members not have a record with the Shin Bet indicating they have participated in terrorist acts. They also will have to be registered residents of the West Bank who appear in the official West Bank population register. Rabin added that for that purpose, a deportee who is allowed back will be considered an inhabitant of the West Bank.

Our political correspondent has learned that prior to the Alignment's ministerial forum meeting two days ago, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni delivered a detailed message from President Mubarak to Peres and Rabin. It dealt with the political process. The information included in that message persuaded the defense minister to support the resolution aimed at accelerating political decisions.

Political sources have reported that in the next few days, Rabin will try to obtain Shamir's agreement to the list in order to prevent dissolution of the government. [passage omitted]

Peres: U.S. Sent Shamir 'Positive' Egypt Reply

TA2202182390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said Prime Minister Shamir has been informed by the U.S. Administration that Egypt has delivered a positive response to the proposals regarding composition of the Palestinian delegation, the issue of the deportees, the announcement of composition of the delegation, and the agenda of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Peres thus was responding to the amazement expressed by the prime minister's bureau that the U.S. response was conveyed to the leaders of the Labor Party.

Rabin, Peres Differ on Delegation Resolution

TA2202190090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau says a decision on the issue of deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs in a Palestinian delegation that would talk with Israel must be resolved within two weeks, but as Le'a Zinder reports from Tel Aviv, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have differing views on what today's resolution really means:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Labor Party Bureau. It came after a brief debate of just under an hour. The resolution states that the condition for the further existence of the national unity government is a continuation of the peace process, and it goes on to say that the Bureau instructs Labor ministers in the government to bring to discussion and decision within two weeks the issues that will allow the beginning of peace negotiations. The key to today's resolution was Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who until this week vehemently opposed giving the government any kind of deadline. Now, says Rabin, Egypt and the Palestinians have given positive answers from Israel's point of view. However, despite the unanimously adopted resolution, there are apparently different ways of interpreting it: Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the resolution is not an ultimatum:

[Rabin] We reached the resolution the way it is written. First, it gives two weeks for a discussion and a decision. The discussion in the cabinet can be prolonged for more than one meeting.

[Zinder] Party chairman Shim'on Peres, on the other hand, says the resolution is unambiguous. The decision, he says, must come on or before 7 March.

[Peres] If the Likud will say no, the minute it will say no, that will be the end of the story. We have within the coming two weeks to make a clear decision as far as Israel is concerned. And the clear decision is either yes or no.

[Zinder] Perhaps because it is seeking to soft-pedal the ultimatum, if indeed it is an ultimatum, today's resolution makes no explicit mention of which government forum is to discuss and decide, or what will happen if the Likud fails to observe the timetable drawn up for it today by the Labor Party.

Shamir, Bush Conversation Concerns Immigration

TA2202173890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] In a telephone conversation tonight, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear to President Bush that Israel is not directing immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and has no such policy.

The Arabs, who always have opposed Jewish immigration, are exploiting my remarks as an excuse for their propaganda campaign, he said.

President Bush replied Mr. Shamir's clarification on this point was important. In their conversation they also referred to the political process, but our political correspondent Arye Golan was told neither leader went into details.

Mr. Shamir thanked President Bush for the administration's intervention on the issue of direct flights from the USSR to Israel and the renewal of diplomatic relations with Moscow. The U.S. President promised to continue to act on these issues.

Peres: U.S. Aid Set for Immigrant Housing

TA2202153490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres, in an address in Jerusalem to the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, declared Israel will not exploit the immigration wave to expand its territory.

There is a clear government resolution not to annex Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and we will not permit that to be changed, Peres said. He stressed the Alignment would not agree to the establishment of additional settlements in the territories and pointed out the building of dwellings for new immigrants with the expected $400 million U.S. aid will be within the Green Line. We are aware of and respect the U.S. position, Peres said.

Galilee Arabs Protest Soviet Jewish Immigration

TA2302100490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Arab residents of the Galilee have started signing a petition protesting Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports a number of organizations in Nazareth, headed by the radical Sons of the Village Movement, initiated the petition, claiming Jewish immigration will hurt them. The petition will be sent to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Here is a quote from the petition: This immigration will be at our expense in all aspects of our daily and national life.

The number of people who have signed the petition and the identity of the Arab circles behind it for now is unclear.

Shamir Explains Concept of 'Eretz Yisra'el'

TA2202184790 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 22 Feb 90

["The following is an address delivered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on Tuesday, 13 February, before the Knesset, and represents the prime minister's official views on the immigration issue"—GPO subslug]

[Excerpt] Mr. Speaker, Members of Knesset, as we sit here holding a vitriolic discussion focusing on immigration issues, we must be grateful and welcome the great miracle taking place at this very time, the miracle of the renewal of the momentum of immigration, the miracle of a modern-day return to Zion. As we sit here in the Knesset, hearing about various partisan and political matters, our thoughts are transported to faraway places, to the hundreds and thousands with whom contact has been renewed after an interruption of decades, and their eyes see Zion and Jerusalem getting closer to them.

Despite crushing criticism, it is impossible to forget that we find ourselves in momentous times for Israel and the Jewish people, and that foremost, we must be prepared, and willing to receive our brothers gladly and joyfully and to integrate them properly, with open arms, warmth and love.

In one of my public appearances, I referred to the waves of immigration arriving and expected to arrive from the USSR, saying that for this great wave of immigration, we need a great, strong, and secure country. During the entire course of my public activity, I have never had need for, nor have I ever used territorial and geographical descriptions, because geography cannot be changed. Israel is unfortunately, a small country.

To me there is no large Eretz Yisra'el, geographically speaking, nor is there a greater Eretz Yisra'el, just as there is no partial or small Eretz Yisra'el. There is only one Eretz Yisra'el: The promised land, the homeland of the Jewish people since the covenant with Abraham, the land of the Bible and of the prophets, which has for generations been the Jewish people's dream, and the focus of its hopes and prayers.

Eretz Yisra'el does not require territorial descriptions and is not a cake which is cut up into slices, as if it were booty. In this era of ours, Eretz Yisra'el needs greatness; spiritual greatness, the feeling of might and security of its inhabitants and its projection toward millions of Jews in the diaspora, who we want to come and join us in the national revitalization of the Jewish people.

Because this is the way things are, it is my belief and that of my friends and of anyone who has true roots in the Jewish heritage, no part of the land has precedence over any other part of Eretz Yisra'el. There is no occupied territory in Eretz Yisra'el as you cannot occupy what belongs to you.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Israel has a government. It has an agreed program, approved by a large majority in the Knesset, and the government has a political initiative which has also received the support of this house. On the basis of all these, and in keeping with the Camp David accords, by which Israel is bound, the permanent status of the areas of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will be discussed in negotiations that will be held according to the format and circumstances precisely described in Israeli Government decisions and international agreements by which Israel is bound. We have not forgotten this.

In no agreement and in no case were Jews prohibited from living in any place whatsoever, including Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. I cannot conceive of any government in Israel agreeing at any time to prohibit Jews from living in any part of Eretz Yisra'el.

At the same time, it should be noted the government has no policy of directing immigrants specifically to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, just as it cannot and does not desire to prevent immigrants from choosing to live there. Every immigrant is free to choose the place where he will live. This is the government's absorption policy.

There is therefore no truth to statements attributed to me, or to interpretations insinuating that I have said that Israel needs territories in order to (accommodate) the wave of immigration knocking at the gates of Eretz Yisra'el. These are two separate problems and two separate topics. My opinions regarding the land of Israel crystallized before there was a massive immigration from the USSR, and I dreamed about mass immigration from the USSR before there was a State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Shamir Seen Losing From Sharon's Resignation

TA2202132090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Constraints and the Downfall"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir reminds one of a sick man who at the very last moment allows the surgeons to remove a diseased organ from his body and transplant another one; it turns out, however, his decision came too late and the surgery was useless.

For a long time now, Shamir has been encouraged by the "princes" to perform an operation to exorcise Sharon, but not before they separated him from what could still be useful—David Levi. Shamir, in his usual way, deliberated, made promises, postponed, and preferred to let things make their own progress. Last Monday, hearing the news of Ari'el Sharon's resignation, there was no man happier than he. Even the harsh chastisement that accompanied the announcement—about a government allowing its citizens' lives to be readily jeopardized—did nothing to overshadow the sweetness of the words which resounded in his ears as he sat on the dais: "I am hereby submitting my resignation."

If one assumes the head of the Likud sees his opponents—both in the Likud and in Labor—as nuisances standing in the way of the party and the Cabinet which he heads, then Shamir has made an impressive step toward the materialization of his goal. The discordant notes heard in the Likud orchestra upon the appointment of the three happy candidates, however, are a symptom showing the operation for the removal of Sharon and the implanting of three trusted loyalists in his place are liable to provide a cure not for Shamir, but for Shim'on Peres, thus possibly enhancing the chance for a political arrangement.

The prime minister was lucky in that Sharon played into his hands when he dropped his resignation announcement on Levi along with the rest of the nation, offending the deputy prime minister as if they had never been fellow members of the constraints club. Right after completing the mourning period for the Central Committee convention and extending his hand in friendship to Levi, however, Shamir stretched that same hand in the direction of his deputy's cheek by skipping over Levi's camp when doling out Sharon's heirloom. He used his other hand to punch the face of Economics and Planning Minister Moda'i—a portfolio without content—by appointing Moda'i's sworn enemy Moshe Nisim as industry and trade minister.

In "laboratory conditions," the three appointments could be considered a masterpiece of political craftsmanship. The appointment of David Magen is an example of the rewards awaiting those who cross the Sharon line to join Shamir's camp. Magen is considered to be the best answer to David Levi, both representing the large Moroccan community. In addition, he arrives equipped with ample proof of organizational successes in several election campaigns. Moshe Nisim has been rewarded for his loyalty to Shamir, although the fact remains he has paid the steepest price for the coalition agreement with the Labor Party. The experience he acquired in the Treasury made him the most natural candidate for the second most important economic portfolio. The inclusion of Moshe Qatzav in the Inner Cabinet completes the entrenchment of the Sephardi community in Shamir's camp.

This appointment saved Shamir the difficult and frustrating choice between the "princes"—Dan Meridor, Ehud Olmert, and Roni Milo—which would have left two more frustrated people in addition to Qatzav, the veteran in the group.

Conditions in real life, however, are not the same as those in a sterile laboratory. Gloves might have been used in the past, but they have long been discarded in the war between the camps. In the wake of the latest round of appointments, three additional people have been shoved wounded into a corner with their backs to the wall. Shamir made it clear to Levi he has no intention of including him in the inner circle of decisionmakers, and that as long as he is prime minister, the man from Bet She'an will remain construction and housing minister. Levi refuses to forget Shamir's promise when he took over from Begin at the prime minister's office that Shamir was vacating the foreign minister's bureau in favor of Levi. More than seven years have passed, and the "learned professor's successes" in managing foreign affairs (not to mention his lack of political prowess and electoral value) so far have not justified the preference for him over that of the leader of the second largest camp in the Likud.

The choice of Magen instead of Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, one of Levi's veteran loyalists, was a slap in the face of the man to whom the trappings of honor are so important. Had there been any chance Sharon's departure would pave the way for the better functioning of the government and the party headed by Shamir, in the situation that has been created Levi has no choice but to join up again with the man who has promised to vacate the prime minister's office for him. While Shim'on Peres keeps in Yitzhaq Rabin's pocket the key to a government without the Likud or early elections, the power games being played by Shamir—who does whatever he wants in the government—can bring the whole structure crashing down. The alliance with Rabin proved its worth for five years, but not even he will be able to stand up to Levi and Moda'i if they join up with Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Tehiya, and all the others to whom Shamir did not fulfill his promises, and present the reigns of government to the Labor Party on a silver platter. The victory celebrations by Magen-Nisim-Qatzav might be short lived, and they might be relegated to the back benches of the Knesset before they manage to warm up their new ministerial seats.

Aircraft Attack 'Terrorist' Bases East of Sidon

TA2202161690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked terrorist targets near Lib'a, east of Sidon. The targets were hit and our planes returned safely to base.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the targets attacked were sites used used by terrorists to organize before carrying out attacks.

Second Air Force Attack on Lebanese Targets

TA2302052290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes carried out an attack against terrorist targets east of Sidon in south Lebanon.

It was the second such attack in the past 24 hours. The Israel Army spokesman said all planes returned safely to base. The spokesman said that the targets hit, near the village of Lib'a, served as bases for attacks against Israel.

22 Feb Incidents Updated; New West Bank Rules

TA2302113790

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 February carries reports by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and Nadav Shragay on page A2 reviewing events in the territories on 22 February and new regulations.

It is reported "the naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip" is in effect "for the third consecutive day. There is, at this stage, no intention of lifting it, military sources in the Gaza Strip reported last night." According to the Army spokesman in the south, "the curfew imposed on Bayt Hanun was lifted yesterday, although the one in Rafah remains." "Palestinian sources" reported eight casualties in the Gaza Strip on 22 February: in Khan Yunus, Rafah, al-Shati', Jabalyah, Bayt Hanun, and al-Nusayrat. They added "many youths held marches yesterday, waved banners, and shouted catcalls" against the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. Several firebomb incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. None caused damages or casualties. "Student riots" also were reported yesterday in Gaza.

"The Gaza military court yesterday sentenced a six-member Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine squad from Jabalyah to 10 and 11 years in jail. The squad members were found guilty of hurling firebombs at IDF patrols and of preparing 35 firebombs."

"Large areas of the West Bank either were under curfew or proclaimed closed military areas yesterday for fear of unrest on the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]." Curfews were imposed on Abu-Dis, Qabatiyah, downtown Ramallah, Qaddura, and al-'Arrub. The curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp, imposed three days ago, remains in effect. Nabulus, Bethlehem, Qalqilyah, and Bayt Sahur yesterday were declared closed military zones.

"Uniformed masked men conducted marches yesterday in several villages. They flew balloons, waved flags, and carried blown-up portraits of Nayif Hawatimah and his deputy, 'Umar al-Qasim, who died of an illness in an Israeli prison in July 1989. Ceremonies on DFLP day likewise were conducted in Tulkarm and the Tulkarm refugee camp, Nur al-Shams, Qalqilyah, Hablah, 'Azzun, Burin, Bayt Wazan, and 'Askar."

The Civil Administration in the West Bank "recently issued a new regulation forbidding the residents of refugee camps to erect a second story on houses situated along the first three rows adjacent to main traffic arteries that serve as thoroughfares for Israeli vehicles. The idea is to combat hurling of rocks and molotov cocktails from the roofs of elevated structures near the roads." As a result, several injunctions have been issued during the last few days to ban continued construction work on such buildings along the Jerusalem-Hebron highway.

"In another measure recently implemented to increase passenger safety along that road, the fence encircling the al-Duhayshah refugee camp has been raised and covered with corrugated metal in a bid to create an artificial wall to block rocks and firebombs."

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA], which issued the permits for the additional stories, expressed its objection to these moves, but the Civil Administration argued "legal opinions and the High Court of Justice" have allowed them. In a meeting last month between the UNRWA director and Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, it was decided "from now on, UNRWA will present new building plans in the refugee camps to the Civil Administration for approval. The Civil Administration, for its part, promised to speed up handling the requests." As a result of this understanding, the ban on work on a community center in al-Duhayshah, which involved a $250,000 donation from Japan, was rescinded. The Civil Administration is dismissing UNRWA's fears the ban on adding stories to homes is a precursor to a move to demolish the houses altogether.

Hamas Core Reportedly Move to West Bank

TA2202124790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 90 p A1

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Security elements in the Gaza Strip have stated a new Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, leadership has emerged in the territories in the wake of the arrest of its former leadership, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the movement head.

According to these sources, the movement's core has moved from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank. The core of the movement currently is in the Nabulus and Tulkarm area, and its ideological leaders are three shaykhs: Sa'id Balal, Ramad Bal'awi, and Subhi 'Antawi. The movement's Gaza Strip leader is Shaykh Ma'ruf al-Najjar.

The security elements further have said the Hamas leaflets now are being printed on high-quality paper and are computerized; in their opinion, this indicates the printing is being done by Israeli Arabs, supporting the assessment the movement's center of gravity has moved from the Gaza Strip.

In the view of the security elements, Hamas activities mostly are limited to the faxing of documents to London and Amman, where the Muslim Brotherhood leaders live. The sources noted, however, that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's leadership has remained unchallenged, and he remains the most influential leader among the Hamas members.

Because of his prolonged incarceration, an alternative leadership has emerged which, according to the assessment of defense elements, is less radical than the imprisoned Hamas leaders. The sources further noted many Hamas activists recently have been released from jails, from the Qezi'ot detention centers in the Negev, and the Gaza detention center.

52 Detained in West Bank on Suspicion of Attacks

TA2202164790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Security forces captured three inhabitants of Bayt Furik in Samaria who were wanted for attacking residents suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports two of them, released in the 1985 deal with Ahmad Jibril, headed Fatah cells in areas where they lived. The third is suspected of heading squads belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the village and of attacks and disturbances.

Some 49 people were detained this week in an operation initiated by Jerusalem police in 'Isawiyah and the Shu'fat refugee camp on suspicion of causing disturbances and rioting. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports Jerusalem police hope the interrogation of the suspects also will solve other incidents, especially vehicle torchings.

Update on 21 Feb Incidents in Territories

TA2202153090

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 February in a page A2 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin reports "an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was injured last night at 2100 when he was struck in the head by a stone in Gaza. The soldier, Eli Zohar, 22, was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for treatment. Two Arab casualties were admitted to the hospital with him. One of them, severely injured in the head, was transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The second injured man was only slightly hurt. Both of them suffered gunshot wounds.

"The IDF yesterday conducted initiated operations to apprehend wanted men in many West Bank locations. According to Palestinian sources, the IDF arrested 16 residents of Bayt I'nan near Ramallah. "One wanted man was caught in the adjacent village of Ramon. Seven wanted men were caught in Qalqilyah. Four wanted men were arrested in Jayyus near Tulkarm, while one fugitive was caught in Tuqu'.

"Palestinian sources reported the IDF operated yesterday in the villages of Ya'bad, Nahhalin, Artas, and the 'Askar refugee camp. The curfew on Qabatiyah, imposed after two local residents were shot during an altercation with IDF troops, entered its 13th consecutive day. The residents said since imposition of the curfew, the IDF has lifted it every second day for two hours to allow residents to buy provisions. Locals asserted shops have run out of goods in recent days, and there is a severe shortage of food in the town. A general strike is expected to take place in nearby Janin today to protest the continuing curfew on Qabatiyah.

"The curfews on Biddu and the Tulkarm refugee camp, which were imposed on 20 February, remained in force.

"Palestinian sources yesterday claimed two schools were closed after students clashed with IDF troops. The schools were in Janin and Jericho.

The report later adds "Palestinian sources reported 11 residents were injured in the Gaza Strip yesterday in altercations with the IDF. The sources specified disturbances took place in the southern part of the Gaza Strip and in various points in Gaza city. A representative of the IDF spokesman at the Southern Command reported local disturbances occurred in the Gaza Strip yesterday, but to his knowledge, there were no injuries.

"Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, yesterday visited the local residents' appeal commission on income tax and customs levies. Ramot urged the residents to use the commission to appeal to the Income Tax Authorities and customs.

"The HA'ARETZ correspondent pointed out two 15-year-old youths were killed in the Gaza Strip last week after a long period in which no fatalities were recorded. One boy came from al-Shaja'iyah; the second, from Rafah.

"Military sources reported there recently has been a rise in disturbances in the Gaza Strip. A senior military source told HA'ARETZ there actually has been no let-up in the incidents in the Gaza Strip, and the residents are prepared to continue suffering."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 22 February in an ITIM report on page A8 notes "a sergeant major in the reserves struck by a barrage of stones hurled by masked youths, and who injured one youth when he responded by firing plastic bullets, was sentenced by the Northern District Military Court to two months work in a military workshop. He also was given a three-month suspended sentence for two years and demoted to corporal."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 21 February reports "the Lod military court today handed down heavy prison sentences on three youths, residents of Abu-Tor, who threw firebombs at a police car last year. They also were convicted of setting two parked cars on fire in Jerusalem. The youngest of the three, a 17-year-old, was given a 12-year prison term. Another youth was given 10 years and the third was sentenced to seven years."

King Interviewed on ACC Goals, Arab Affairs

JN2302082690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Feb 90 p 14

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman by Samir Rajab for Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-MASA', published jointly with AL-RA'Y on 23 February; date not given]

[Text] [Rajab] Your Majesty, How do you view the achievements of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] one year after its establishment?

[King Husayn] I think the ACC has given the Arab man much hope and reassurance that his dreams and cherished, inherited values of integrating and marching toward the desired Arab unity are being realized.

In practical terms, the ACC leadership has accomplished a lot during the past year. It believes in common action with a view to laying down the sound and firm foundations of the aspired-for integration in an atmosphere of full confidence and with a holistic view that goes beyond narrow considerations for the common interests of the ACC member states.

There also is harmony between the ACC and the other Arab councils and the worldwide tendency to arrange relations on such a basis. We are more entitled than others to assume our responsibilities regarding this.

There have been intensive meetings to establish formulas for many agreements in various fields. I think the first year was one of establishment and preparation. In the second year, God willing, we will continue to move along the same line, and then start watching the implementation of the agreements, which have taken some time to prepare, discuss, and pass through the constitutional stages in the ACC member states.

So, we now are at the doors of the real inception—the implementation of the agreements, along with the addition of all that is good and useful, God willing, to the march of our cooperation.

[Rajab] Your Majesty, the Arab citizen in the four ACC countries has a major role. What is it? What is required of him?

[King Husayn] The leaders should impart to the Arab citizen all developments and give him results to reassure him the measures actually meet his hopes and aspirations. In this case, the Arab citizen can become an observer and eager for the success of the march and the realization of its goals and objectives.

I think the expected results of the upcoming stage will make this citizen more reassured the achievements were in his interest, so he will cooperate with us, God willing. The citizen then will be the guarantee for the continuation of this march.

I am talking about myself and on behalf of my brother leaders. This was an attempt to present a gift to the Arab man—a gift that restores his confidence in himself and his future. We are honored to serve him in the position of responsibility in these difficult and delicate circumstances.

[Rajab] The boundaries of cooperation between the ACC and the other Arab councils are not yet clear. What is Your Majesty's comment?

[King Husayn] I think this is the beginning. What has happened and is happening in the Arab world and the world at large makes it essential for all Arab leaders to reconsider many of the Arab situations.

Consider, for instance, the economic dimension and the emphasis on development. In this particular field, the aim must be to make use of the available resources and achieve full integration with the passage of time. This enhances the possibility of our progress, not at the expense of each other; it gives us real weight in the world.

On the other hand, if the views are narrow, closed, limited, and personal, then instead of achieving integration, we will act against each other and, consequently, waste much of our capability to encounter the threats and dangers we are facing; we will fail to realize our desired aims of developing the people of the entire Arab world.

There is need for much work, therefore. I think there have been beginnings with the previous Arab summits focusing on the economic situation. The reality we are trying to create is to transcend the stage of intermittent meetings and non-implemented agreements. We need to implement what we agree upon so we can move in the right direction. With respect to the ACC, I am confident this will happen, God willing, because we are talking about more than 80 million Arab people. It also will happen through cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. We are, hopefully, on our way to realizing the goals of our homeland.

[Rajab] Your Majesty, what are the prospects for Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation and its future horizons?

[King Husayn] Its horizons in the future will, God willing, be very broad. It now is based on mutual trust, concern for the Arab nation's interests, constant meetings and consultations, and the search for joint action to benefit this nation's interests. Before the ACC had emerged, there were, with the grace of God, committees on the level of prime ministers between Egypt and Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, and Egypt and Yemen. Similar committees also existed among the other ACC member states.

In fact, the ACC has constituted a natural step that made us move toward a new hope. I believe there is a need to continue the dialogue and contacts all the time, and I also believe the ground is set for a joint action. I also am proud of the relations between us and the big sister, Egypt, which grew under the most difficult circumstances. Thanks to God, the relations are very clear and honest, and I hope they will set the example for relations among the brothers.

[Rajab] Your Majesty, your relationship with President Mubarak is very special. Has this relation been built following a long period of joint action, and is it really growing with time? I mean, how did this relationship—which is rare among Arab leaders—become distinguished?

[King Husayn] I believe the basic thing is the concern for our nation's interests and for serving our causes. In addition to all that, I hold great respect for my brother, His Excellency President Mubarak, and we are friends, brothers, and comrades in the same march.

As you said, relations between us indeed are distinguished and are based on sincerity of words and action. I always have been interested in establishing a relationship with my brothers in the Arab world on a credible basis, so we can avoid what prevailed in past relations among leaders, when there were many obstacles. These obstacles prevented them from being frank and from correctly dealing with one another.

Thanks to God, the friendship has grown and brotherhood among us always will be there. We hope we will be able to serve the future generations based on this relation, which we take pride in and which, I believe, is for the benefit of the Arab nation.

[Rajab] Is there any problem related to Egyptian workers' remittances or something of that sort? Do these problems exist now?

[King Husayn] Some of these problems may arise every now and then. We may fail to forecast them in advance, but I think all these problems can be resolved. I do not believe there is any outstanding problem now.

[Rajab] How does Your Majesty assess the peace process? Is it stumbling, advancing slowly, or are we losing hope?

[King Husayn] This interview is, of course, conducted before my meeting with my brother, President Mubarak. Therefore, I cannot give you a definite answer before I hear from my brother about his efforts and the efforts of Egypt and the PLO to serve the cause, which is the central cause and the reason behind the fact this region has been unstable for a very long period of time—I mean the issue of regaining the Palestinian Arab rights, which is the key to resolving the Middle East question.

On the other hand, however, I certainly am worried. I believe my brother President Mubarak and my brothers in the Arab world, particularly the PLO leadership and the president of the state of Palestine, are as worried as I am, because the sequence became as follows:

—We used to discuss the issue of the international conference, to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and attended by all parties to the conflict, at head of which is the PLO, after it responded and offered everything that had been asked of it as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. It accepted UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, renounced terrorism, and recognized Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

—We then found out the picture had changed and became distorted to some extent with the proposal of conducting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to bridge the gap between the two parties. This was a U.S. proposal, and it may have been justified until we reached the stage when Israel began to demand the right—that is if we can call it a right, especially since we never have heard anything like it before—to choose those with whom it will conduct the dialogue. This, of course, constitutes a trespass against the PLO, the address for all Palestinians who we recognize and support. We also believe no solution can be achieved unless the Palestinians are a major party in the negotiations. We, therefore, still are in this atmosphere, in which things became unclear.

—At the same time, the picture on the international scene also changed with the earthquake-like developments, which no one expected would produce such quick results. These include the recent events in East Europe and the Soviet Union and their position on human rights.

Following the recent changes there, it is natural for the so-called East European states to adopt stands that to a certain extent would conflict with or contradict their previous stands. We nevertheless should embark on a dialogue with them to reach a common conviction that human rights should be safeguarded everywhere. We should remind them and explain to them we have a case, which is the rights of the Palestinian human being, and that no issue should be resolved at the expense of another. There has been much talk at this phase in particular about hundreds of thousands of new immigrants, who are entitled to leave their country for any place they choose. In this case, the proposed destination apparently is Israel.

This actually is a new element which behooves us to act in order to counter what we believe certainly will threaten the peace process, because who will the waiting hundreds of thousands, who already have begun to arrive, replace?

How can we, then, talk about a peace process that originally is based on UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for the inadmissibility of the occupation of others' territory through war, or about the equation of land for peace? If we consider the establishment of settlements and encroachment on the occupied territory a threat to the peace process, then what we now see makes us feel there is a real danger posed to the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil. This danger will threaten the entire region if the present situation persists, especially since the world is concerned with the changes taking place in other areas and is unable to properly concentrate on the Arab world issues. This is the situation; it is delicate and critical.

[Rajab] What is the Arab stance regarding this?

[King Husayn] The present Arab stance should exceed, or perhaps avoid, the customary one of only expressing blame, accusation, and protest. The situation should be meticulously studied at the highest level and, consequently, we should move in an effective, feasible manner.

Here the possibility of conducting an Arab summit emerges. We naturally welcome an Arab summit, but hope any new summit will be preceded by sufficient preparation and will last for a sufficient period of time, so there will be an in-depth discussion of all issues requiring treatment. These issues are related to inter-Arab relations in all domains, as well as Arab relations with the outside world and basic issues, such as the Palestine question and other urgent issues, such as Lebanon, for example.

In my opinion, one of the most serious issues is the Iraq-Iran war and the Iraq-Iran situation, which still is confined only to a cease-fire, and not a real peace based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Peace will give Iraq and Iran a chance to address pressing issues after an eight-year war, during which Iraq defended the Arab order and protected it from a menacing danger. I also feel continuation of the present situation makes us here encounter a danger threatening the Arab order in the depth of the Arab homeland, represented by Israel and its intransigent stances. There is a host of other issues in the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb and in the rest of the greater Arab homeland. There are problems around us which deserve to be tackled with great attention and speed.

[Rajab] Your Majesty, you told THE WASHINGTON POST the United States currently is amending its positions, or that it has reached a stage at which it does not want to recognize Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, as if all previous efforts were futile.

[King Husayn] In fact, I was very surprised, not only at the U.S. reservation in Geneva, but also at what accompanied this reservation. They interpreted the resolution, which was issued and talked about a Palestinian and Arab land, as saying the future and final status of this Palestinian and Arab land should be determined through negotiations. This totally conflicts with Resolution No. 242, in whose drafting I personally participated prior to its issuance on 22 November 1967.

[Rajab] Following his resignation, Ari'el Sharon made statements in which he called, among others things, for opening borders between Jordan and Israel and for ending the intifadah. What is Your Majesty's opinion?

[King Husayn] Brother, these statements do not deserve even a comment.

[Rajab] Could you give us an idea about the proposed National Charter and the basis on which it will be established?

[King Husayn] The National Charter is based on the respect of the Constitution. All Jordanians will have the right to contribute to the formulation of the charter, which would organize their future life in all aspects.

The parliamentary elections were conducted following Jordan's decision to dismantle legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in response to Palestinian and Arab demands. At the same time, we talked about the charter, which is the other part of the pledge we aspire to fulfill. An elite representing all schools of political and ideological thought in this country will be invited to formulate the charter, which will organize our future march in both its national and pan-Arab dimensions. The proposed charter then will be put forth at a plebiscite so the people, who are the owners and source of authority, can say their word, which only can bring good. At the same time, the charter will guarantee the success of the march during its coming phases in light of the democracy we opted for and the freedom which all of us will maintain and safeguard.

[Rajab] The prime minister has announced the 1957 law banning the establishment of political parties will be reconsidered. What has happened in this respect?

[King Husayn] Again, the National Charter will handle this subject and the government and the Parliament, of course, will deal with it. Party pluralism actually will be achieved because this is democracy, and this is what the National Charter will contain.

[Rajab] Your Majesty, what about the economic situation in Jordan?

[King Husayn] It is moving toward relaxation, God willing, in a later stage. The fact is, Jordan's economic crisis is a result of Jordan's position and responsibility at the longest confrontation line with Israel; it is a result of Jordan's geographic proximity with the Palestinian cause and the fact this cause has been its own cause from the very beginning, in addition to being the cause of the Arab nation.

Israel, on the other hand, is not able to survive except through the constant support and assistance it receives from abroad—from world Jewry and the forces they influence; this is very well known.

We are destined to confront Israel, and I think we are defending not only the Palestinian Arab right, but also this land—the land many in Israel consider part of the state the Jews were promised to establish. We are defending the depth of the great Arab homeland.

This is our destiny, and the main reason for our suffering. At any rate, we have great hopes we will be able to overcome the current situation, God willing.

[Rajab] Your Majesty took a humanitarian initiative when you announced the donation of your corneas. I heard this on the radio in the morning and then watched all citizens following suit. A drive at the highest level was launched. What are the motives behind Your Majesty's initiative? Was their a certain humanitarian case?

[King Husayn] In fact, the donation was made many years back. What happened recently is that while listening to a morning radio program, I heard the story of eight-year old Ja'far 'Isam from Irbid governorate. He needed delicate eye surgery. I spoke directly with the presenters of the program and decided to send the child to the FRG at my expense for treatment. The well-known eye surgeon Dr. Boss [as published] will perform a cornea transplantation operation for free. The cornea already has been made available.

I had donated my corneas earlier, but renewed the decision after I listened to Ja'far's story on the radio.

Thank God, there has been great response by Jordanians at home and abroad. We are one family eager to perform our duty and role in all fields, at all levels.

Mudar Badran on 'Story' of Pan-Arab Squadron

JN2202204090 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
21 Feb 90 p 21

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said the reported pan-Arab squadron is no more than an assistance program to train Jordanian pilots. He said Jordan's current financial difficulties make necessary this joint training.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QABAS on the question of a connection between the squadron and the Arab corps proposed by King Husayn, Badran added: We heard about the pan-Arab squadron from the press. The whole story is that, under the current financial circumstances, there are pilots who cannot get the minimum level of training hours to maintain the required standard. The Iraqi brothers help these pilots complete their training hours. He stressed Israel is exploiting this issue on the international level.

Regarding the Arab corps proposed by King Husayn, he said it merely was an idea. He said: The Arab corps is an old story, based on the Arab states' right to defend themselves and to defend Arab territories. Nothing had been done to implement the idea, however.

When asked whether the Arab corps would be discussed at the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] summit on 24 February in Amman, the Jordanian prime minister did not rule out the possibility of discussing any issue of interest to the ACC states. He said this topic is not on the agenda of the ACC summit, but this does not mean the ACC states cannot discuss any issue of interest to them. He added that military coordination is not on the summit's agenda, but the ACC leaders can discuss any issue they wish.

Tujan Faysal Found Innocent of Apostasy Charges

JN2202130590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
22-23 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[By Ghadir Tahir, staff writer]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Sharia appeals court Wednesday ruled that a Jordanian Woman was not guilty of apostasy, but the plaintiff, a lawyer himself, said he planned to file a new lawsuit involving the same charges.

The verdict in favour of Tujan Faysal, who was accused of challenging the Prophet Muhammad's sayings through her writings in the local press, came during the second session of an appeal court hearing. The head of the three-judge committee, Shaykh Salih al-Muhtasib, ruled that Faysal was a Muslim woman who believed in the Koran and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.

"The court's decision has made it clear that the petitioners had political motivations not religious ones," Faysal, who ran in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections, told the JORDAN TIMES. "They are trying to block any progressive trend in the country," she said. Faysal did not attend Wednesday's court session.

When the case surfaced in October, many activists described it as an attempt by religious extremists to "stifle the woman's movement at a time when women were running in the elections for the first time in the Kingdom's history."

But lawyer 'Abdallah al-Shamayilah was not convinced of Wednesday's ruling. "I plan to file another case against Tujan and her brother, Muhammad Faysal. I have other evidence from her writings and from witnesses." The lawyer explained that the case against Faysal's brother hinges on the fact that he agreed with "every word" she wrote and said.

"The court's decision was incomplete. It did not cover all the points in the article, word by word," al-Shamayilah said. The lawyer was referring to Sept. 20 article written by Faysal in the local press. "The court did not even ask me why I thought she committed apostasy," he said.

However, Faisal's lawyer, Mundhir Hammu, said "the court decision is final. He (al-Shamayilah) cannot demand anything more." Hammu did not dismiss the possiblity that Faisal may file a libel suit against al-Shamayilah as well as other two plaintiffs. [passage omitted]

'Awn, Ja'ja' Accept Security Committee Agreement

NC2202222590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible security committee source stated tonight that the committee has reached an executive agreement on normalizing the situation, reopening roads, and withdrawing forces to their barracks and fronts. The agreement was submitted to General 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja' and received their assent. Implementation of the agreement will begin at 0700 this morning [23 February].

Ja'ja': 'No More Battles' in East Beirut

NC2202190090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has reassured the citizens that there will be no more battles from now on. He said that the black stage is over and that our problems can only be solved through dialogue. This came in remarks Dr. Ja'ja' made during a visit to the Voice of Lebanon to inspect the building. He thanked the radio employees for their sacrifices and steadfastness. He asserted that material damage is unimportant and that the Voice of Lebanon is not merely a building and pieces of furniture, but a voice of freedom and dignity.

Dr. Ja'ja' pointed out that current efforts are aimed at normalizing the situation and returning it to what it was before this war. He expressed hope that work will start in the next few days on the gradual removal of fortifications. He called for dressing the wounds and completing the march to achieve the goals to which we have devoted ourselves for 15 years so that we may build the new Lebanon we all dream about.

'Awn Says Eastern Area 'Powder Keg'

NC2202193090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] All signs indicate that the fighting will erupt once again between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' cliques, who insist on making the eastern area pay the price for their power struggle. The so-called media and military truce has turned into mere talk, in view of the continued media campaigns and military preparations and violations. [passage omitted]

These military preparations coincide with reliable reports that the mediation committee has reached a deadlock. Michel 'Awn confirmed this today in a news conference in which he lashed out at the Ja'ja' cliques and levelled all sorts of accusations against them, describing them as immature and calling them murderers, liars, and looters. 'Awn reiterated his conditions for uniting the rifles.

'Awn admitted that the eastern area is a powder keg and no one knows when it will explode. In his news conference, 'Awn said Ja'ja' talks big but acts small, and is not ashamed of claiming illusory victories, as he did after the al-Qulay'at-Darayya battle. The rebel officer described Ja'ja's talk about recognizing the legitimacy of the 'Awn [as heard] government as provocative and a kind of political and media oneupmanship. He noted that the looting by Ja'ja' gunmen in the naval base and Sarba does not indicate any [word indistinct] by Ja'ja' groups.

Regarding the mediation committee, 'Awn said it could not reach any results because of Ja'ja's maneuvers. He challenged the committee members, who were present during the news conference, to say otherwise. He added that the committee will not attain any success so long as the time is not ripe for the political option. He said the vacillation with which the committee started its work led to the fighting. He added: We have proposed some principles for a solution, but Ja'ja' is trying to gain time and catch his breath.

'Awn admitted the presence of a Palestinian delegation in East Beirut and declared that he (?rejects) the delegation's proposals to deploy Arab observers in East Beirut. He repeated his assertion that he cannot accept the presence of two military entities. He noted that if dialogue does not reach the desired result, the military option will be inevitable.

'Awn displayed a document to the journalists which he said was a military order dated 6 December 1989 for the infiltration of the al-Madfun area in coordination with Ja'ja'. He said he had detained a number of officers who were behind the distribution of leaflets in the eastern area. They are Antoine Sa'd, Yusuf al-Tahhan, and William Mulayyis. Paul Faris, Richard Daghir, and Antoine (name indistinct) managed to flee and join the Ja'ja' ranks, he said.

'Violations' by Pro-'Awn Groups Updated

NC2202163590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] While the mediation committee members pursued their peaceful endeavors to normalize the situation in the eastern area, the pro-'Awn groups continued their media and security violations in an attempt to cause tension. Here is an update on the security situation:

Since 1530, the Lebanese Forces positions in Galerie Khabbaz and the brewery area have been coming under light- and medium-caliber machinegun fire. At 1625, the Sodeco neighborhood came under bursts of sniper fire from the Army positions in (al-Tubayyah). At 1630, the Lebanese Forces positions in the vicinity of Salome area as well as the residential areas of Sinn al-Fil were subjected to sniper fire. The Lebanese Forces positions in Galerie Khabbaz came under intensive bursts of gunfire 15 minutes later. At 1655, the Lebanese Forces positions near the brewery, in the Nahr al-Mawt area, and in Galerie Khabbaz were still coming under machinegun fire, and five RPG-7's were fired from the Army positions opposite. At 1700, a number of RPG's fell in the vicinity of al-Sayyidah in Sinn al-Fil.

'Awn Forces Open Fire on Al-Ashrafiyah

NC2302122390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The mediation committee's efforts to consolidate the cease-fire, reopen the roads, and normalize the situation have hit two mines—political and security. The political mine can be seen in the campaign against the committee General 'Awn launched last night and his questioning of its ability to achieve positive results. The security mine can be seen in the 'Awn units' efforts to aggravate the situation along the Beirut lines at a time when the mediation committee was working to reopen some of the main roads.

At noon today, the 'Awn units opened artillery fire at residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah immediately after prayers were held at Sasin Square for the restoration of peace in Lebanon. Shortly before 1300, the 'Awn units opened fire at the Lebanese Forces positions on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah. The Lebanese Forces continued to abide by the cease-fire agreement.

2 Killed, 20 Wounded in West Beirut

NC2302134490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes broke out again between the 'Awn group and the Lebanense Forces along the combat lines at midday today. The Museum, al-Dawrah, al-Ashrafiyah, al-'Abd square, al-Karantina, and al- Dikwanah areas were subjected to concentrated rocket and artillery fire. According to security reports, a number of fires broke out at the scenes of the clashes. Fire fighters and civil defense squads have so far been unable to evacuate the casualties and extinguish the fires because of the intensity of fighting.

Meanwhile, five rounds landed near the al-Barbir Bridge in West Beirut, killing two people and wounding 20, according to security sources.

Israeli Raid Targets Pro-Iranian Group in South

NC2202181590 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 22 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes raided bases held by a pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist group in southern Lebanon Thursday, wounding at least two people and leaving the targets in ruins, witnesses said.

They said four Israeli planes attacked two bases of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah at Shawaliq, some 10 kilometers (six miles) east of this port city. Earlier reports said the attack had targeted Palestinian positions.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military spokesman said the Air Force had raided bases "which had served to launch anti-Israeli terrorist attacks." The planes hit their targets and returned safely, he added.) [No opening parenthesis as received]

One fighter and one civilian were wounded and the two-story buildings were almost completely destroyed, hospital and al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah sources said.

A spokesman for the armed Sunni group, which is based in Sidon, said his men were searching the rubble for other possible victims.

The raid at 5.35 p.m. (1535 GMT) was the Israeli Air Force's sixth this year in southern Lebanon and its first against the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

On Monday, Israeli jets had raided positions near here held by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a leading faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Three DFLP fighters were wounded.

Most Palestinian groups and Lebanese leftist and fundamentalist factions have bases in the Sidon region, facing pro-Israeli militiamen operating in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Israeli forces periodically carry out incursions in Lebanon in retaliation for what they say are anti-Israeli attacks.

2d Raid Targets Palestinians

NC2302060890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes again raided military positions in the Lib'a area, east of Sidon, at dawn today. Israeli aircraft yesterday evening raided military positions of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Kafr Jarrah. The raid left three people wounded. Israel radio reported that the raid was against military positions in the Lib'a area. A source in the Nasirite Popular Organization said that the raid was targeted against its positions on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front.

Junblatt Calls For Implementing Al-Ta'if Accord

JN2302144190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and minister of public works in the government of Salim al-Huss, continues his visit to Paris, which began the day before yesterday. He is expected to be received today by Francois Cher, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry.

Walid Junblatt today called in Paris for implementing the al-Ta'if agreement. Let us listen to the statement he made regarding this regard in the interview he gave to our radio.

[Begin Junblatt recording] It is high time to implement the minimum limits of the al-Ta'if agreement so that Lebanon can continue to exist. I am not calling for military intervention. But, I am urging certain Arab states, and the United States, to take decisive political action to isolate 'Awn—politically, financially, and militarily. When I say militarily, I mean to stop sending weapons to Lebanon. And, here lies the role of the tripartite Arab committee—that is, to move quickly to urge the states concerned to take a serious action. Otherwise, the al-Ta'if agreement will die; and with it, Lebanon will die. [end recording]

Work To Reopen Roads in Eastern Area Begins

NC2302103090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Work to remove obstacles and earth barriers from the roads in the eastern area is continuing. Some mines in the areas of Nahr al-Kalb and Corniche al-Nahr are also being detonated. The work to reopen some of the roads began at 0700 today.

General Michel 'Awn and Dr. Samir Ja'ja' have approved the agreement reached through the security committee and the mediation committee, which is continuing its efforts from the office of Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik.

Mediation committee member Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman told our radio that work began today in the Nahr al-Kalb and al-'Adliyah areas. He stressed the committee's determination to continue its work out of its belief in rational and calm dialogue.

Amal, Hubayqah Attacks in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Noted

NC2302083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] A media source in Hizballah has made the following statement: The attacks by Birri's Amal and Elie Hubayqah's [former Lebanese Forces executive committee chairman] groups against the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah are continuing. At 1430 yesterday, al-Luwayzah came under rocket and artillery fire from the positions of these groups in 'Arab Salim. The Jurnaya hill came under 120-mm artillery fire at 1600. Kafr Milki and Shuran hill came under fierce 120-mm artillery fire from the Hubayqah group emplacements in Sarba at the same time. At 1615, 120-mm mortar shells fired from the emplacements of these groups in 'Arab Salim fell in Jarju'. At 1630, Jba' came under 120-mm field artillery fire from emplacements in Tuffahta. At 1800, a 107-mm launcher fired rockets at Kafr Fila. The savage shelling caused a number of casualties among the citizens and destroyed some houses and property.

The Hizballah source concluded: We will always raise our voice to stop the barbarism of these groups and their attacks and practices against our kinfolk, whom they say they want to protect even as they direct their destructive artillery and rocket fire at them in an attempt to kill them and destroy their houses and possessions. We call on everyone to work to put an end to the practices of these groups and their repressive plan against our kinfolk so they can resume normal life.

UNIFIL Spokesman Denies Killings in South

NC2202171690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] A spokesman for the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has denied media reports that the Norwegian contingent shot and killed two resistance fighters yesterday. The spokesman added that such false reports do not serve the public interest in the south.

National Salvation Front Condemns 'Fascist' Regime

JN2302102490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, 22 Feb (INA)—The National Front for the Salvation of Syria has condemned the fascist Syrian regime, which has taken upon itself the task of plotting, sabotaging, and inflaming confessional feuds in Syria and the region.

At a news conference here yesterday, the Front stressed that the crimes committed by Hafiz al-Asad's regime are unparalleled in this age after his massacres and persecution went beyond the Syrian people to include the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The front denounced the Syrian regime's occupation of Lebanese territories and its numerous anti-Arab postures, noting in this regard its alliance with the ruling regime in Iran and its liquidation of the national elements in Syria and Lebanon.

In its charter, which was signed by a group of parties, organizations, and national personalities, the front referred to the Syrian regime's role on the Arab level, which is no less dangerous than its role on the domestic level, and said it sided with the Iranian regime, which antagonizes Arabism and Islam and aspires to expand beyond the eastern borders of the Arab homeland.

The Front, which comprises the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, all Muslim Brotherhood trends, the Arab Socialist Union, and the National Democratic Party, in addition to former Syrian Government and Army officials, said that by cutting off oil and closing the borders with Iraq, the Syrian regime only expresses its further indulgence in treason and plotting against the Arab cause and in serving the imperialist and Zionist strategy in the Arab region, indicating that Hafiz al-Asad has restricted the Palestinian resistance activity and turned the Golan Heights into the calmest and most secure front for the Zionist entity, just as he did in Lebanon.

In its charter, the front called on all sectors and factions of the Syrian people to resume their role in the battle for a comprehensive change, using all their potential, and to work jointly and on one front against oppression, tyranny, and conspiracy after Hafiz al-Asad has confiscated all their liberties and rights for over 20 years and after the number of his victims has risen to tens of thousands of dead and more prisoners. It referred to the massacres and bloodbaths in more than one Syrian city, particularly Hamah, where more than 30 [figure as received] Syrians were killed.

The front's charter pledged to bolster the Syrian Arab people's national unity by treating citizens equally despite their different affiliations and creeds, asserting Syria's Islamic Arab identity, restoring the Syrian Army's national role, liberating the Golan and the usurped Arab territories, lifting the state of emergency, and canceling the extraordinary laws and courts that are being used to persecute the people.

It stressed that it will remedy the collapsing economic situation in Syria, which has a destructive impact on the citizens' life and living standard, and restore Syria's genuine historic role on the level of its cooperation with the other Arab countries for the sake of attaining Arab unity.

The front indicated that its work aims at establishing a democratic, constitutional, and parliamentary republican system in Syria that guarantees party pluralism and secures public liberties, including the freedom of creed, expression, and press.

The front stressed that it extends a hand to any organization, grouping, or political personality that realizes the importance of frontal action in toppling the dictatorial regime in Syria and helping this Arab country reassume its usual role along the path of democracy and unity.

Oppositionists' Return Reportedly Being Negotiated

PM2302112090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Zaki Shihab report: "Syrian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Contacts With Opposition Figures To Arrange Their Return To Damascus"]

[Excerpts] London—Informed Syrian sources and Arab diplomatic sources have confirmed contacts between Syrian figures living abroad and certain government channels with the aim of facilitating their return to Syria.

The informed Syrian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that contacts were under way with a number of opposition figures living abroad, excluding those participating in the activities of the organizations of "the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria."

The contacts, the sources said, are confined to figures who left Syria because of personal differences with influential circles in the country.

Arab diplomatic circles in Western and Arab capitals say that there have recently been a series of contacts between certain Syrian departments and individuals living abroad. They add that one of the people with whom there have been sveral contacts is Syrian Muslim Brotherhood leader Shaykh 'Isam al-'Attar, who has long resided in West Germany.

According to the same diplomatic circles, some of these contacts were made by Syrian government officials and some by individuals friendly with both sides.

AFP has quoted a Syrian official source as saying that the Syrian Government has abolished martial law. [passage omitted]

The diplomatic sources who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT expect further steps to be taken in Syria to pave the way to a comprehensive dialogue with the figures living abroad. [passage omitted]

Groups Mark Syria-Egypt Unity Anniversary

JN2202211690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Statement marking the 32d anniversary of the Syrian-Egyptian unity state and the 23 February movement issued by Syrian popular organizations and trade unions on 22 February]

[Excerpts] O steadfast masses of our people. Our Arab masses are now commemorating the 32d anniversary of the inauguration of Syrian-Egyptian unity and of the establishment of the first unified Arab state in contemporary Arab history. We are remembering this unity which was achieved after protracted struggles and immense sacrifices by our people in Syria and Egypt. This unity completed the march of Arab struggle against regional challenges and colonialist conspiracies and alliances. The masses' pan-Arab consciousness has been strengthened. Thus, their struggle for unity has grown; besides, they have realized that unity is strength and that it is the best means to end division and the backwardness inherited from the era of colonialism and feudalism. Hence, the unity forged between Syria and Egypt in 1958 was a decisive turning point in the life of our Arab nation. Our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led the struggle of the Arab masses, mobilized their resources, and gathered their strength against colonialist schemes and parochial schools of thought. It achieved a historic accomplishment by establishing the United Arab Republic, the first unity experience in contemporary history. This experience enhanced the pan-Arab struggle and elicited sympathetic and supportive pan-Arab sentiments in Arabs from the ocean to the gulf. This happened because unity is what the masses demand. [passage omitted]

The militant progress of our party is overflowing with revolutionary accomplishments. The party managed to rectify its course and kill the backward rightist mentality on 23 February 1966, when it launched a new phase of the struggle. However, the maneuvering mentality and rigidity prevented the party from accomplishing its tasks and implementing its programs, thus making it impossible for the party to fulfill the aspirations of its strugglers and masses. This caused the party to fall into the trap of isolation, seclusion, and detachment from the masses. Then came the 16 November Corrective Movement, initiated by members of our great party under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party, to correct the party's course and to give back to the party its masses, its revolutionary course of action, its militant spirit, and its deep faith in the masses and their causes; and also to launch a new qualitative militant phase bursting with accomplishments and successes; that is, the phase of the glorious Corrective Movement, which has enriched the party and the masses and represents a historic victory for the pan-Arab and socialist policy and also for the Arab masses' march toward unity, freedom, and socialism.

O masses of our great people. The unity anniversary and the 23 February anniversary are being celebrated at a time when our Arab people's intifadah in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon is escalating day by day, providing further evidence of the nobility of descent of our Arab nation and proving that an Arab victory over the settler and expansionist Zionist enemy is inevitable. The intifadah has shown the wisdom of our party's principles. It has also proven the soundness of the farsighted revolutionary perspective of struggler leader comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party, who affirmed more than once that the only path to victory and liberation is the path of sacrifice and martyrdom and that the major conflict in the region is the conflict with the Zionist enemy. Moreover, struggler Hafiz al-Asad said that Arab solidarity and the mobilization of Arab strength to struggle against the Zionist enemy is the way to liberate the territories and regain our rights.

Hence, our militant country, along with all Arab masses, has condemned marginal differences and peripheral contests in the Arab arena. Foremost among these was the Iraq-Iran war, initiated by the fascist tyrant Saddam Husayn. Through this battle, Saddam Husayn destroyed the resources and capabilities of our people in Iraq in a crazy and useless war in which the Zionist enemy emerged the only winner. This reckless tyrant has continued to go to excess in his killing, displacement, and extermination of our unlucky Arab people in Iraq and to perpetrate the most savage Nazi crimes in contemporary history. Moreover, he has continued to provide all forms of political, material, and military support for the partition-seeking, sectarian, and Zionized clique in Lebanon led by the rebellious officer Michel 'Awn, thus cooperating with the Zionist enemy in partitioning Lebanon into sectarian statelets.

Our Arab masses stand firmly on the side of our militant country and hail its principled, courageous, and redemptive pan-Arab policy in Lebanon against the partition conspiracy; in its efforts to stop the destructive civil war; in its support for the legitimate authority and for the national unity government's efforts to extend their authority throughout Lebanon, to liberate Lebanese territories from the Zionist enemy, and to build a unified Lebanon—land and people.

O masses of our Arab people. In view of the momentous challenges facing us, the popular organizations and trade unions in the Syrian Arab Republic, while marking the 32d anniversary of Syrian-Egyptian unity, would like to reaffirm their unwavering faith in our sublime objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. We would also like to say that Arab unity is our major objective, taking precedence over all others. We would also like to repeat that Arab solidarity is our effective weapon against the enemies of our nation. Besides, we would like to renew the pledge to our great party, to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our Arab nation; and to our Arab masses throughout the Arab lands, that we will continue to struggle, fight, and sacrifice to gain these objectives. We appeal to all Arab masses to demonstrate solidarity, mobilize resources, and close ranks in the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Greetings of pride, high respects, and reverence to the righteous martyrs of the Arab nation who have irrigated Arab soil with their pure blood so that the tree of freedom can grow and flourish. Greetings of pride and appreciation to our valiant Armed Forces, the shield of the revolution, the wall of the homeland that forged victory in the October of liberation on the hilltops of the Golan and Mount Hermon. Greetings of struggle to the valiant popular intifadah in occupied Palestine, to the struggle by our people in the occupied Golan, and also to the national resistance in southern Lebanon. Similar greetings to the heroic and leading pan-Arab role played by Syria under al-Asad in fraternal Lebanon. Greetings to the Arab strugglers fighting for unity who view Arab Syria as a safe haven for revolutionaries and free men and also as a bastion of pan-Arab steadfastness. Greetings to our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and also to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, its secretary general who is also the leader of our nation. We pledge him loyalty and allegiance and assure him that we will continue the victorious march behind his historic leadership until victory and freedom.

Pakistan's Nusrat Bhutto Arrives in Damascus

JN2302144690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party leader and first Pakistani minister, arrived in Damascus today. She was received at Damascus International Airport by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal; the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus and Embassy staff; and directors of protocol at the Foreign Ministry and the National Command. In a statement to SANA, Mrs. Bhutto expressed her pleasure at visiting Syria, which has good and firm relations with her country. She said these relations are now better than ever before.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Najibullah News Conference

LD1802221390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 18 Feb 90

[News conference held by President Najibullah with home and foreign correspondents and foreign press attaches on 17 February at Storay Palace in Kabul; names of correspondents as received]

Dear journalists, dear friends. One year has elapsed since the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The past year has been a year of harsh tests for the Republic of Afghanistan and a fateful stage for our country. On the one hand, during this period the strength of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the victorious defense of the Armed Forces of the country against foreign interference and armed intrusion, and on the other hand, consecutive defeats of the armed opposition in military and political fields have been seen. Similarly, prestige and the credibility of the Republic of Afghanistan at the national and international level have been further enhanced, whereas armed opposition groups lost their credibility not only among the people of Afghanistan, but also with world public opinion. Over the past year, since the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it has been learned by everyone that the solution to the Afghan problem is possible only through peaceful negotiation and understanding, and the continuation of war and destruction will have grave consequences for the followers of warmongers and irreconcilable policies. In connection with the developments of the past year, I would like to draw the attention of the revered journalists to my radio and television speech on 15 February. In the speech, main developments and incidents of the past year and new proposals and plans of the Afghanistan government for the political solution of the problem of Afghanistan and the preparation of better grounds for the implementation of national reconciliation among the Afghans have been highlighted. I hope you have obtained its text. In spite of that, if you have questions I am here to answer them.

Jonathan Lindy, UPI correspondent: Do you think the attention of the great powers, the United States and the USSR, has been drawn to their own problems and change in Eastern Europe and now they do not think about Afghanistan?

Najibullah: Fast changes taking place in various parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, inevitably attract the attention of the great powers. So far as the Afghan problem is concerned, we believe the fundamental key to the resolution of these issues rests inside our country and in the hands of the Afghans themselves. Obviously, what we want from the United States and the USSR, as guarantors of the Geneva agreements, is to fulfill their obligation and help stem foreign interferences and interventions in the affairs of Afghanistan, and to restore peace in this wretched country.

Lindy: In your previous statement you said democratic reforms began three years ago in your country. If such is the case, what is the reason for the continuation of war in your country?

Najibullah: The main and fundamental reason for the continuation of war is, on the one hand, armed foreign intervention in the internal affairs of our country, mainly from Pakistan, and on the other hand, the stubborn and irreconcilable stand of the heads of the extremist groups opposing the Afghan Government and their disregard of the national interests of Afghanistan, which entails the peaceful resolution of the despute. When those two factors are removed there will be no reason for war to continue.

Lindy: Will the agreement between the superpowers on the cessation of the arms supply, in your opinion, lead to the acceleration of the peace process in Afghanistan? And in your opinion, how long is needed before the cessation of arms supplies will have an impact on the war?

Irelin Fetscher, AP correspondent: What will be the reaction of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan to the bilateral cessation of the arms supply by the USSR and the United States to the Armed Forces of Afghanistan and the mujahidin?

Najibullah: We are of the opinion that the agreement of the two superpowers on an end to the arms supply will be the first step. But it is not enough. The end of the arms supply will be looked at as a complex subject. It is necessary that all countries that supply arms to various Afghan sides stop. Also the observance of a cease-fire or the cessation of combat operations must also occur along with the stopping of the arms supply. At the final stage the withdrawal of arms arsenals under the supervision of the UN will be assessed. The Republic of Afgfhanistan and its Armed Forces support the plan and consider its implementation in the interest of the restoration of peace and the cessation of war.

Fetscher: In view of the new thinking in the West and East, do you consider the prospects for peace good?

Najibullah: More than at any other time, there is the possibility of a political solution and the alleviation of tension in Afghanistan. The positive stand and new political thinking have helped much to resolve international problems. No doubt it can have an impact on the acceleration of the process of peacefully solving the problems, not only of Afghanistan, but also of the other parts of the world.

Taki Ochi of ASAHI SHIMBUN, Kathy Webb of AFP, an unidentified CTK correspondent: It is reported that changes will occur to the name and constitution of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and the role of the National Front. Could you please highlight the most important changes and problems in this regard, that is, has your government been affected by the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union?

Najibullah: Taking into account objective facts, and in view of changes that occur in the country and world, the restructuring of the PDPA and altering the role of the National Front are natural and matters of principle. I do not think there is an obstacle in the way of this natural and principled action. In connection to the last part of the question, I would like to add that incidents that take place in the world now affect nations and countries at different levels. But, every country has its special conditions. What happens in Afghanistan is mostly the product of changing internal circumstances.

Ochi, Fetscher: The US-USSR talks on ways of finding a political solution in Afghanistan continues. Please reflect your views on the recent proposal of Mr. Baker tendered in Moscow. Also tell us what conditions you propose for a political solution: 1. Are you ready to step down lest the US-USSR talks fail? 2. Will you agree to the transfer of responsibility for the formation of a government to a non-Afghan source, such as the United Nations, for the election of a government by Afghans?

Najibullah: We warmly welcome any effort that will lead to the political solution of the issues concerning our country. The fact that must be taken into account in any negotiation is the objective realities of Afghan society. A formula that does not suit our society's circumstances and does not take into account the proportion of forces will be unacceptable. From our point of view, all forces and concerned sides will sit at the negotiating table and find a solution acceptable to all.

Fetscher: According to reports, food and agricultural goods shortages are increasing in the northeast part of the country. Could you please tell us what the situation there is and what preventive measures have been taken by the government of Afghanistan?

Najibullah: There is a real shortage of food in some areas of the northeast. This is due to the subversive activities of the extremist armed groups and the obstacles created by them in the way of the transport of goods. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan under its benevolent and humane policies has assigned related organs through decrees to take urgent action for helping those areas.

Fetscher: Please explain the mechanism for the election of a new government in Afghanistan. How many people will take part in the elections? Will Afghans outside the country have a role in the elections? What form will their participation in the elections take? Also, what authority will announce the results of the elections?

Najibullah: The mechanism that the Afghan republican state has put forward is the holding of a broad conference in which all those groups who are supporting the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan will participate. This conference would elect a leadership council; the leadership council forms a coalition government in Afghanistan comprising all participant groups in the conference; the leadership council prepares a draft constitution to be presented to a Loya Jirgah; general national elections will be held in line with the election law; a new government will be formed by the winner party or a coalition of parties. The elections will be held under observation by the United Nations.

Webb: All eyes are turned to an agreement by the great powers which will be pursued by some sort of plan of national reconciliation. Don't you believe that there is another alternative, meaning that no plan will be implemented and the intensity of the war will, without implementation of any plan, slowly decrease?

Najibullah: It is true that the continuation of war by the war-mongering forces is increasingly isolating the war-mongering forces and their isolation from the people undoubtedly decreases their war capability. The Republic of Afghanistan believes the only effective way to end the war is the humanitarian path of implementing the expanding national reconciliation, toward which all forces should make sincere efforts.

REUTER: As it is known, distance exists between you and the opposition concerning peace talks. Your proposals for peace were rejected by the opposition. Would you show further flexibility toward them in order to bring them to the negotiating table?

Najibullah: The proposals by the Republic of Afghanistan are acceptable to a large number of commanders inside the country. Only a number of leaders of the extremist groups have shown opposition to our proposals. I believe the proposals put forward in the statement of 15 February will answer the last part of your question.

REUTER: What is your greatest victory after one year of Afghan independence?

Najibullah: After one year of independent defense, now the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are very strong; the people's support for the state has increased; communication routes and major highways are open in the face of traffic; and stable foodstuff reservoirs have been constructed in order to maintain food for the people.

Soviet TV correspondent: Esteemed president, you have many a time said: The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] is putting an end to power monopoly. Could you please tell us about the cooperation with other parties that have become public.

Najibullah: Esteemed journalists, you know that after the approval of the constitution by the Grand Assembly, the law of parties has been introduced. On the basis of that law, political parties and organizations started to be active in the sociopolitical life of the country. Including the PDPA, nine political parties are now active and we consider them our political allies. These parties have a role and a part to play, according to their power, not only in the sociopolitical sphere but also in all state organs—in the parliament, i.e. in the Senate and Wolasi Jirgah, in the government which forms the executive in our parliamentary system, and in the judiciary. You know that a joint commission of the representatives of all parties and political organizations is currently working on drafting the program, the organizational structure, and the political character, and changing the name of the National Front. The draft will be submitted to public opinion after which it will be approved at a congress of the National Front or whatever name it will then have. And in line with this, the future activities will start.

I think that such broad activities of the political forces are a manifestation of the fact that not only has the PDPA given up the monopoly of power but it is moving forward together with its allies. We have not satisfied ourselves with this but we have always called for new forces with new formulas which conform with the high interests of the people of Afghanistan and with the high aim of restoring peace and promoting unity.

BBC correspondent: What is your reaction to the recent proposal of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze? He proposes convening a national and international conference [as received] and [words indistinct]. If we look at the history of the peace process in various countries in the world, including Latin America, can we not conclude that Afghanistan will eventually be segregated into parts? The process of talks would take years.

Najibullah: As far as Shevardnadze's proposals are concerned regarding the solution of the internal and external problems, they are very similar to our plans and proposals. For example, we have proposed an international conference in connection with the implementation of the mechanism of our peace plan. We have also tendered our proposals for a regional conference. As far as the remaining arms arsenal in the country are concerned, as I told you, if we truly want the restoration of peace in Afghanistan we shall remove all arms and ammunition from the arsenals under the supervision of the United Nations. We went further. In our first plans we suggested that Afghanistan become demilitarized. If this plan were implemented, not only would Afghanistan be protected from distintegration, but it would also consolidate Afghan unity and alliance. This is my opinion.

UPI: There are many reports indicating that guerillas are becoming militarily stronger in the vicinity of Khowst and Jalalabad. It is also reported that they have 60 pilots who are trained to fly warplanes. Do you have any reports about this and do you think that they will be able to intrude, using those pilots and aircraft, and capture one of the towns?

Najibullah: As far as the claims of the armed opposition are concerned, I think if we assess these claims over the past year, not only Afghanistan but also all southwest Asia would have been occupied by them. No doubt they cherish such plans of capturing a province or a large town in the country, and transferring their government there. The legal period for their submissions has expired but that they are making preparations for the new stage of their elections or selections, which is unclear and on which there are disputes among them. [as received] No doubt we have reports that they have trained some personnel in the field of air combat. I would also like to state that while on the national and international levels the predominant view and trend—and also as a result of the new understanding between east and west—is to solve regional disputes through new political thinking and detente, any country that gives warplanes to the opposition and violates the sovereignty of an independent state by air from another country and supports that act is not only not helping to resolve the Afghan problem but is viewed as another clear violation which cannot be regarded as a justifiable act in the new international political atmosphere. And in that case, I can assure you that the people of Afghanistan can defend their country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity and independence as they have defended it against the joint invading forces over the past year, and will give a resolute and crushing answer to those who entertain such aggressive plans.

BBC correspondent: Recently, you changed the name of the special guard to National Guard and you also sent a militia force to Jowzjan. Is this not as a result of the differences which occurred in the Armed Forces last December. Another question: Recently Mojadidi indirectly sent you a message proposing that your forces not attack the council of mujahidin if it is held inside Afghanistan. What is your reaction and reply to that message?

Najibullah: Names are given on the basis of character, tasks, and organizational structure. Because the guard has carried out its tasks in Khowst, Jalababad, Salang, Qandahar, Konduz, and Herat to defend the country and its territorial integrity as its nature requires, it was renamed the National Guard to correspond with its national duties. In connection with the return of the tribal unit to Jowzjan it shuld be noted, on the contrary, that we have summoned other tribal units from other parts of the country to Kabul and other provinces of the country. Right now a large number of tribal units are acting to get a supply convoy to the town of Gardeyz. To answer another question from the journalist, it is to be said that Mojadidi has not sent me such a message but has publicly asked for this through the mass media—if the government of Afghanistan agrees that the council of seven be convened in Afghanistan. In response to this, we suggested a plan because unilateral measures have often been taken by them which not only do not yield results but cause their further political isolation. We proposed that we should turn this council—which did not have the approval of the majority of the sides related to the settlement of the Afghan problem—into a council which would have the participation of and be acceptable to all internal and external political forces of Afghanistan and that it should be convened in Kabul or Qandahar or Jalalabad. We guarantee the security and safety of such a council. Not only will the council they want not be acceptable to the nine-party coalition, the PDPA and its political allies, technocrats, intellectuals, supporters of the former king, and the absolute majority of the internal commanders, as well as the seven-party coalition itself, do not accept it. Golbuddin, who considers his organization the strongest, has rejected it. Yunus Khalis calls these elections against Islamic laws and is against elections. Rabbani has other plans about the mechanism of elections. Muhammad Nabi, who is the interior minister of the so-called interim government, has said that these elections are not possible because all forces standing for election are armed and the slightest difference can spark armed clashes. He claims that he cannot guarantee that the elections will be held in a calm atmosphere. They will lead to new armed clashes and killings.

So tell me who is left to approve these elections? And these imaginative elections do not even have the backing of the seven-party coalition. Even if desired, how can this type of council be guaranteed to convene in a province of Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations? It is something that does not exist. It is imaginary. How can its safety and security be guaranteed? I repeat my plan once again, that the council be convened in one of the cities I have already named with the participation of all forces and we take the responsibility for it.

NEWSWEEK: Will you entrust the council with powers and priviliges during the election process and who will be the candidate of the coalition government?

Najibullah: You know that in the mechanism of our peace plan we said that a council or a peace conference should be convened. A council of leadership should be set up. This council should form a coalition government. This coalition government and leadership council should appoint a commission to draft a constitution and election law, and convene a grand assembly. After the approval of the constitution and election law we should go for elections. We can call this stage a transitional stage in which the leadership council discharges its tasks along with the coalition government.

TASS: Your Excellency the president: After its defeat in Jalalabad, the opposition claims that Soviet troops, and in particular Soviet and GDR advisers, took part in these attacks and Indian pilots took part in military flights. They now say that Soviet troops are stationed at Afghanistan's borders, and in particular a broad deployment of the Soviet Air Force has been built in the Badakhshan and Wakhan regions from where it consistently takes part in operations inside Afghanistan in support of your government. They also talk of Jowzjani militias, which, they say, are composed of Soviet Tajik and Uzbek people. What do you say in this regard?

Najibullah: A great characteristic of the Republic of Afghanistan and of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is their Afghan nationalism and patriotism. One of the most important reasons for the defeat, in particular, of the alliance of seven, is that they are tools in the hands of others and in the hands of the Pakistani civil and military intelligence networks. The seven always claim that they are in control of the major part of the country's territory and the absolute majority of the Afghan people support them. Here a small question comes to mind about why they do not believe in the people of Afghanistan and in their talents and therefore say that air force flights are being carried out by foreigners—Soviets, Indians, and others, and that the Afghans are incapable of this. This is a factor which has given us victory on the battlefields against those who are the tools of others. This proves that we have relied upon the combat capability of our Armed Forces and on the Afghan character of our homeland while the opposition has lost this character. In this way the PDPA and the Afghan republican state have proclaimed their sovereignty as a patriotic force protecting the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity and the opposition has chosen to stand against these. We believe in Afghans and in their self-confidence. We have promoted the policy of national reconciliation and, based on the character of Afghan nationalism, we have decided that the Soviet forces should withdraw from Afghanistan. We were completely confident that the people of Afghanistan are capable of defending the independence and freedom of their country. In the course of history, from Alexander the Great to the time of the British, whenever we faced an aggressor, our fathers and forefathers succeeded in defending their country without the help of the Soviet forces and without the help of the Russian forces. One year of independent defense has proved this fact. I believe a part of the Jowzjani militia is at this moment engaged in operations in Gardeyz and foreign journalists have interviewed them. Another part of them is garrisoned in Kabul. You can go and talk to them. They know everything, except the Russian language. They know Uzbek and Dari, but not Russian.

BBC correspondent: Reports exist that Tajiks in the Soviet Union want more freedom, in particular linked with Tajiks in Afghanistan. And a second question: In answer to a question, you rejected your stepping down as a precondition. An understanding has been reached between the Soviet Union and the United States in connection with an interim period. Does this mean that you and the Soviet Union guarantee that you would step down at some stage of the interim period, or has the United States miscalculated this? Or is it correct that the Soviet Union had talks with you in this regard?

Najibullah: As far as relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, these relations have wide and all-encompassing dimensions in political, social, economic, and cultural areas, which have not been in existence under the current conditions, but existed before the period of revolution with every regime in Afghanistan. Among these is border trade between the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union with the border provinces of Afghanistan. These relations between some provinces of Afghanistan and the Soviet republics exist in the education, health, cultural, and agricultural fields for which, in our turn, we are grateful and I believe to an extent, according to international norms, visits are being exchanged between the Tajik, Uzbek, and Turkmen people with the Soviet Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmanistan and some other Soviet republics.

In answer to your second question, I should say again that the main principle is the political solution of the question of Afghanistan and a great step towards that end is the commencement of talks and dialogue along which there should be a mechanism I have described before and do not want to repeat again, that we could accept as an interim step to reach the phase of elections. Once again I would like to emphasize that, neither on the level of negotiation nor on the level of agreements, no democratic norms allow that the rights of a person or a force, who are linked to the destiny of the people and the country, be taken from them.

I believe most of these questions should be directed to the United States and it is never possible in a mechanical manner to take away the humanitarian and democratic rights of a person or a force as a precondition. Every political, social, and national personality and every Afghan political force, inside or outside Afghanistan, has the right to take full part in the length of this process. I therefore say that such a precondition, which is contrary to every legal and democratic norm, is only a pretext for the continuation of war in Afghanistan and it is not aimed at the political solution of the question of Afghanistan. As I said before, whatever talks and negotiations take place between countries of the world or between the superpowers and through the UN good offices, ought to take into consideration the true and realistic conditions of a society. If these are not taken into consideration, their implementation capability would be weak and would not bear fruit.

BBC correspondent: Have the Soviets told you that giving up power is a necessity?

Najibullah: All questions can only be solved by Afghans through talks. No one and no country has the right to interfere in this process. Of course we affirm good efforts. The main solution of the question, however, is in the hands of the Afghans and thus should be brought about by the Afghans themselves. Should we leave that to others?

Bangladesh

Mitterrand Rejects U.S. Protest on Nuclear Plant

BK2302023090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand has rejected the American protest regarding the supply of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan. He told newsmen in Dhaka yesterday that if they wanted to protest, let them. When asked if he expected a protest from India as well, the French president said that India definitely would not be happy either. He added that Pakistan was unhappy when France supplied a nuclear power plant to India in 1982.

Anti-Narcotics Officials Locate Poppy Fields

BK2302071490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 23 (AFP)—Bangladesh anti-narcotics officials have discovered a large area being cultivated for poppies near a southeastern resort town, the mass-circulation daily ITTEFAQ reported here Friday [23 February].

The officials raided the Paglir Beel, Patabari and Holudia villages in Cox's Bazaar District, 289 kilometers (182 miles) from here and close to the Burmese border, where they discovered the cultivation Tuesday. The ITTEFAQ said a ton of marijuana was also seized during the raid.

Three people allegedly involved with the illicit farming and trading of narcotics were detained and an investigation was under way, the paper said.

Drug peddling carries a maximum punishment of death in Bangladesh, which during the past two years has turned from a transit point into a market for the drug rings from the golden crecsent and the golden triangle drug-producing areas of Asia. Unofficial estimates have placed the number of drug addicts in Bangladesh at several million, with 50,000 addicts in Dhaka alone.

India

Talks With Nepalese End; Statement Issued

BK2202145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] India and Nepal are to sign agreements soon to solve all outstanding bilateral problems. The officials of the two countries have decided to finalize the documents in their next round of meeting to be signed by the foreign ministers of India and Nepal when Mr. I.K. Gujral visits Kathmandu. The dates for the proposed meeting and Mr. Gujral's visit have not been fixed, but are likely to take place next month.

Briefing newsmen on the secretary-level talks which concluded in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that both sides showed a sense of urgency to sort out pending questions, and agreement on major issues has been reached. Detailed discussions were held on the proposed documents which would cover trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, and a zone of peace proposal.

A joint statement issued after the talks said that the documents would comprise a broad framework of the close and age-old India-Nepal relationship on an enduring basis.

Officials To Sign Agreements

BK2202161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 90

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Referring to the progress made during the three-day marathon talks, the joint statement said there could be no insoluble problem given the current approach of the two sides.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said India's security concerns were taken into account by the Nepalese delegation and India is satisfied with the outcome of the talks.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Akshay Rout, described the results of the official talks as a breakthrough and said that the proposed agreements will be within the scope of the 1950 treaty between India and Nepal which New Delhi has all along emphasized. The lack of mutual trust which appeared to determine the sour relations between the two neighbors in the recent past has yielded its place to a positive atmosphere.

During the talks, the Nepalese side seemed to appreciate the realities on the ground, and India on its turn did not insist on strict parity. Our correspondent understands that the two sides agreed to reactivate joint operations against smuggling narcotics and inundation of land.

The Nepalese delegation has since left for Kathmandu.

Singh: No Interferece in Nepal

BK2302093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has said India will not interfere in the internal affairs of Nepal. He was addressing a meeting in Sitamarhi District of Bihar today.

Leaders of four national political parties have condemned the repression against pro-democracy people in Nepal. Addressing a public meeting in New Delhi, the leaders of Janata Dal, Congress-I, CPI [Communist Party of India], and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] voiced their strong feelings against oppression of the Nepalese people. They said India has age-old ties with Nepal, and the government and the people in the country should protest against the Nepalese Government action to curb democracy.

The leaders who addressed the public meeting included Mr. Chandra Sekhar, Mr. K.N. Singh, Mr. Avtar Singh Malhotra, and Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet.

Singh Warns Pakistan Against 'Brinkmanship'

BK2202130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has warned Pakistan not to indulge in brinkmanship and said that any misadventure in the region would get a suitable reply. Addressing a meeting in Hajipur, Bihar, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that not an inch of the country's territory would be ceded to Pakistan. He said that any settlement of bilateral issues would be possible only in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. Mr. Singh pointed out that India's stand on the Kashmir issue has been appreciated by the international community which feels that the issue is being blown out of proportion by Pakistan.

The prime minister said that Jammu and Kashmir and the Punjab problems are, as he put it, the worst legacy of the Congress-I regime.

Afghans in Pakistan Said Recruited for Kashmir

BK2202162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Reports reaching New Delhi say that the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] leaders based in Pakistan have started a drive to recruit Afghan youths staying in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to fuel terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Led by Mr. Amanullah Khan and Mr. Farooq Haider, the JKLF is reportedly pressurizing the Afghan youths to join such a move. Some of them are being pushed into the Kashmir Valley with leftover arms of Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin. The youths have been asked to strike at government establishments, paramilitary forces, and Indian intelligence agencies.

Small Arms Fire Exchange in Kashmir Noted

BK2302051790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] It is reported that one civilian was injured when Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing in the (Soka) sector in the border district of Punch yesterday. Quoting official reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] says Indian security forces returned the fire and the small arms fire exchange lasted for about 2 hours. The injured civilian had taken his cattle out for grazing.

Srinagar Buildings Damaged in 3 Explosions

BK2202130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Three explosions took place at different places in Srinagar city today. In one of the explosions, the building housing the Rainawari branch of the State Bank of India was damaged. The office building of the agricultural department in Lal Mandi area suffered minor damage in another blast. The third explosion took place in a tourist reception center, damaging a portion of the building. Meanwhile, the curfew was relaxed in the city for 13 hours from 0500 this morning. Shops and other business establishments remained open, and transport plied normally.

'Sources' on Possible Purchase of SU-27 Plane

BK2302120090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP)—India is considering buying the latest Soviet fighter plane, the Sukhoi-27, which would be a potent new addition to the Indian Air Force (IAF), Defence Ministry sources said here Friday [23 February].

The new generation fighter with long-range interception capabilities was unveiled before top Defence Ministry and IAF officials here Thursday, the sources said.

Soviet Aviation Industry Minister A.S. Systsov offered to sell the planes during talks here with Indian officials earlier in the week, they said. Mr. Systsov is here for discussions on possible collaboration in aviation.

The Defence Ministry sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the offer was being considered by the government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Codenamed D-Flanker by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the SU-27 has an intercept low-level radar with a range of 100 kilometres and can carry beyond visual range missiles capable of hitting targets at 40 kilometres. It has evoked considerable interest in Western military aviation circles and was displayed at a Singapore air show before being flown here on its way back home.

The SU-27 would be a potent addition to the IAF, which has 750 combat planes including the MiG-29, nicknamed Fulcrum, which is Moscow's answer to the U.S.-built F-16 fighters. India was one of the first countries to take delivery of the MiG-29.

SRV Seeks Further Assistance To Develop Railways

BK2002151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Vietnam has sought further assistance from India for the upgradation of its railway system. A high-level Vietnamese delegation held discussions in New Delhi today with the chairman of the Railway Board on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. Experts from India have visited Vietnam recently to identify problems facing the national railways in that country. The Vietnamese minister [not further identified] appreciated assistance rendered by the Indian Railways and said his country needs more assistance from India for improving the financial management of its railway system.

All India Radio Inaugurates Warangal Station

BK1702102490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The 100th All India Radio station was inaugurated this morning at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh. The station has been set up at a cost of 2.75 crore rupees and has a capacity of 10 KW.

Iran

Paris Embassy Denies Hostage Talks With U.S.

LD2302093490 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, Feb. 23, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Thursday [22 February] categorically denied Tehran-Washington talks on release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

The embassy in a statement denied a report by the French Channel 5 Television Network on Thursday claiming that negotiations were underway between Iranian and American officials on the release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

The report referred to a Thursday editorial in the English language daily "TEHRAN TIMES" on the issue of hostages in Lebanon, describing it a positive sign in probable release of the hostages.

The embassy statement once again strongly condemned any act of hostage taking which endangers lives of innocent people. It also called for release of all hostages from all nationalities describing it a humanitarian measure.

Larijani Sees U.S. Troubles in Unified Europe

LD2202210390 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22. IRNA—What has happened in Eastern Europe is neither a political nor an economic victory for the U.S., while ten years ago the prevailing thought was that the fall of Marxism would bring both the victories for Washington, a senior Foreign Ministry official believes.

Mohammad Javad Larijani, advisor to the foreign minister, in a commentary printed in the daily ETTELA'AT here today said the U.S. failure to gain a political triumph in Eastern Europe stems, to a large extent, from Gorbachev's cleverness and his understanding of the major change sweeping Europe—a development whose cultural and ethnic dimensions by far prevail over its economic ones. That is, revival of some feelings of 'Europeanism' in the values and in political, economic and particularly cultural systems, Larijani said.

He said Europeans have explicitly considered some sort of historical mission for themselves which should be fulfilled through the unity and collaboration of Europe.

Gorbachev took the utmost advantage of this situation, because if the Soviet Union was hated the most in Czechoslovakia some day, today Gorbachev is considered a kind of 'messiah' in the Prague streets.

On the other hand, Larijani wrote, a feeling of 'saturation and unwillingness' is expressed all over Europe toward the U.S. military presence.

A second interesting point is that the U.S. does not have a significant ground for economic activities in Eastern Europe, while previous calculations disproved this.

Since the very beginning of the developments Americans set up a headquarters to watch and follow up economic grounds in Eastern Europe. The head of the headquarters announced last week that the major obstacle in the way of the U.S. investments in the Eastern Europe is the bad monetary situation in those countries.

In a bid to remove this obstacle it is essential for East European countries to stabilize their monetary link with the dollar, and this is not possible for the U.S. at all. Therefore, the only promising reason is to use cheap manpower in Eastern Europe to export expensive goods to Western Europe. And this has its own 'cultural difficulties.'

In turn, consider the move by the Germans. West Germany has devised a plan to use a single currency and save the East German industries, and is discussing its implementation. East Germany has no doubt that this means 'economic conquest' of the eastern side by the western side, but Germans do not consider it humiliation, rather people of the both sides believe that unity of the two Germanys is a step towards boosting up Germany's power, greatness and prestige.

Although East Germany has a completely different situation from West Germany, the present European and particularly German policy for helping Eastern Europe implies the motto 'collaboration through internal solidarity', disseminated over the past two years.

People of the Eastern Europe are absolutely sensitive towards the American term 'cheap manpower'. This people are very sensitive towards humiliation today, because they compare themselves with the people of Western Europe. They have nothing less than West Europeans concerning scientific, industrial and cultural aspects, rather they are more experienced in various fields, but have become what they are now as a result of a wrong way of thinking.

Today the only thing the Eastern Europe has, is 'pride' over the past and 'hope' on the future. The U.S. economic policy vis-a-vis Eastern Europe has no economic achievement for it, but would rather lead to Washington's further isolation.

The U.S. seems to have got into trouble finally due to 'culturalessness'.

Musavi-Ardabili on Rushdie Edict, Azerbaijan

LD2302114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] On the occasion of the divine call to His Holiness Mohammad, peace be on him and his scion, to prophethood, the magnificent religious-political rites of the Friday prayers were held all over the country.

The God-seeking people of Tehran, meanwhile, held the immortal Mohammadan rites at the Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

In the prayer sermons Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili offered congratulations on the occasion of the Festival of Mab'ath [divine call to prophethood] to all the world's Muslims. He also thanked the people of Iran for their massive participation in the 11 February marches which were conducted most gloriously. He said: The said march made the friends of the revolution and the Islamic regime happy, while disheartening all the enemies of Islam.

Referring to the recent move by the Muslims against the apostate author of the insulting book, "The Satanic Verses," he said: In the view of all the tribes of Islam, the fact that Salman Rushdie is an apostate is a definite point. And the edict on the apostate, which is execution and killing, is a point on which the ulema of Islam are agreed. And the person who has issued the said edict, from the point of view of scientific qualification, piety and status, held the highest position in Islamic society. The said edict is neither revocable nor subject to any doubt. If a Muslim is in a position to execute the edict, then no delay, even for one hour, is permitted.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili stressed that the apostate author of the book "The Satanic Verses" should not await the revocation of the said edict because nobody has the right to revoke it. He then said: The issue is not only Salman Rushdie. Those who have entrenched themselves on that issue are bent on making fun of the Prophet, the imams, the Koran, and everything else. However, thanks to the very person of the imam and the said divine edict, their path was blocked; they failed to deal blows at our religion and our revolution.

He then referred to the disintegration of the world socialist camp, saying: The disintegration of one of the two poles of the civilized world indicates that the palace was not built of steel and lead. Rather, it was built of ice; so it melted in front of the fire. It is a miracle of history that the religion of Islam is still a living existence after 1,400 years, and it also has a message; while communism, which promised a classless and egalitarian society, could not last for more than 70 years; it melted away.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili stressed: We cannot remain indifferent to the problem which has happened across our frontiers; we cannot remain indifferent to those who share with us our language and our religion. He then added: We are duty bound to help the Muslims of Azerbaijan who have accepted, with all their being, Islam and the Koran and our regime, who have asked for a helping hand. We must do so as Muslims and without allowing this action to be an interference in political terms in the affairs of Azerbaijan—to give them religious training and to feel responsible for them, because that is the religious duty of us all.

USSR's 'Discriminatory' Policies Criticized

NC2302090590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "'Nations' Solidarity' Faces Acid Test in USSR"]

[Text] Tension and restiveness, a feature of the Asian republics of the Soviet Union in recent months, seem to have spilled over to the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan these days.

TASS, quoting the Soviet Interior Ministry last Friday, said leaflets spread in Uzbekistan have asked the Russians to leave the republic by March 1.

Moscow has meanwhile denied any sign of riot in Samarkand, an important city of Uzbekistan, although it has admitted the existence of tension in the city.

Since the break of the news on the potentially explosive mood in Uzbekistan, the Kremlin has been aggrandizing Armenian-Uzbek ethnic problems as the root cause of the tension. The same tactic was employed during the Azerbaijan and Tajikistan recent events. Apparently Moscow considers such ethnic strife, claimed or true, proof enough to boost its military presence in the related regions and to suppress popular protests and rallies.

Events that pose security risks at the central governments [as published] however should be controlled. It is quite understandable. But a thorough investigation as to why grounds become fertile for such matters is probably as important.

The Russians have a very strong presence in Uzbekistan, especially in Tashkent, the republic's capital which is the USSR's fourth most important city. Besides, almost all sensitive and key positions of the republic are held by white Russians. These two issues are certainly among those directly contributing to establishing a mood of restiveness and riot in Uzbekistan.

Gorbachev's government, however, has ostensibly withheld from discriminating among its republics.

But recent events have practically demonstrated the central government's discriminatory policies prejudicial to Asian republics as compared to the European members of the Union.

Even "glasnost" has been forced down the throats of the Asian republics by the force of bayonet. From this point of view it has to be admitted, regrettably though, that the double standards employed by Moscow in handling such affairs mark a continuation by President Gorbachev of the discriminatory policies of the former Soviet governments.

Ironically, "nations' solidarity" a famous slogan of Lenin, is still referred to as one of the greatest achievements of the founding father of the Soviet Union on placards and mottos hanging here and there over many city squares in the USSR. But in reality this revolutionary slogan has only led to a domination over other nationalities in the union by the Russians.

The world now expects President Gorbachev to truly materialize this slogan in this time of change in the union. The use of force to suppress popular grievances will prove only a short-lasting sedative.

Editorial Views Events in Soviet Tajikistan

NC2102122790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 15 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Kremlin Should Go for More Realistic Approach"; from the 14 February edition of the TEHRAN TIMES]

[Text] Soviet leadership has announced a state of emergency in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikstan after what the official line Moscow has described as a "state of pogrom, looting and disorder created by the Tajik youths." The central government has also imposed an overnight curfew on the republic's capital Dushanbe.

Since the launching of political reforms by the Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, resurgence of nationalistic feelings and a restive mood in general have been making the rounds of the union.

This agitation and unrest is of course a natural outcome of long years of overnight suppression by the former Soviet governments which left not even the slightest room for airing public grievances.

But violence will not serve the best interests of anyone. Violence brings violence and given the sixty nationalities that consitute the Soviet Union, it will be extremely difficult if things really get out of hand for both the central government and the republics.

In the past the Soviet government always tried to quell nationalistic feelings and aspirations by force.

Instead of making genuine efforts to understand the popular feelings, Kremlin almost certainly always made sure to employ tactics that would impose a supposed sense of belonging to the union on locals. But these tactics including forced immigrations and publicizing the Russian language and explicit discrimination against the non-white nationalities managed to impose a pseudo-monolithic appearance on the vast union.

So, under force, nationalistic aspirations were not ostentatious but they submerged only to surface again more powerfully upon the first opportunity they found.

In handling the issue of unrest in Tajikstan, the Kremlin leaders should be aware of the influence the Afghanistan issue has had over the Tajiks who come from the same geneological line as Afghans.

In other words, force will not work even if its use might, for a time, make things look to be under control.

What suits best the interest of the union as well as that of the republics in the USSR under the present circumstances of rapid change will be efforts to avoid violence and create the political climate apt for a peaceful handling of the related issues.

It should be noted that even this round of reportedly violent moves on the part of the Tajik people has been probably unleashed when the youths became agitated over rumors that some 5,000 Armenians had been settled in Dushanbe and given newly built flats there by the central government.

But the issue of the Armenians is not a national problem for Tajiks as the Armenian community in that republic is considerably small.

The Tajik problem is therefore a frustrated popular feeling and aspirations suppressed for many decades by the central government.

Helping people to express their cultural identity and reach their aspirations within peaceful coexistence is what the Kremlin should do.

President Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt

TA2202170990 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] According to reliable sources, on Tuesday [20 February] in Tehran one of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's bodyguards fired at him. The person standing in front of Hashemi-Rafsanjani was killed. Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself was not hurt in the incident.

Velayati Message Calls for Muslim Unity

LD2202201190 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires in Manama Hoseyn Naraqiyan Wednesday met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Ibn Hamad Al Khalifah and handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Bahraini minister placed stress on cooperation among Islamic countries for further unity among Muslims.

Also discussed at the meeting was Tehran-Manama relations as well as issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Iranian ambassador in Aden Mahmud Emtiyaz [name as received] submitted Velayati's message to Foreign Minister of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali the same day.

The message laid emphasis on the need for coordination among the Islamic countries against plots hatched by global arrogance against Islamic sanctities.

The PDRY foreign minister said imperialism and Zionism have increased their attacks against Islam. "They are in fact supporting Salman Rushdie."

Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses' was sentenced to death by late Imam Khomeyni last year. The apostate author is in hiding ever since.

The Islamic revolution's leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i reiterated this month that the death sentence issued by the late imam was holding.

The Yemenese minister, adverting to housing of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestine emphasised that "unity of Islamic countries and nations is a prerequisite for preventing a large Israel from being established."

In another development, a similar message for Turkish minister of foreign affairs was submitted to Turkey's deputy foreign minister by Iran's ambassador in Ankara Mohammad Reza Baqeri the same day.

Talks were also held at the meeting on expansion of Tehran-Ankara-Islamabad relations in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Velayati's messages were sent to foreign ministers of Islamic countries on the occasion of the anniversary of late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] against Rushdie. It called on these countries to follow up the issue in their next session.

Afghan Rebel Coalition Leaders Meet Velayati

LD2202184290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Messrs. Seyyed Ahmad Gailani, and Burhanuddin Rabbani, who arrived last night in Tehran at the head of a delegation representing the Afghan mujahidin seven-party coalition, met Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati this morning. In that meeting, first Messrs Gailani and Rabbani presented a comprehensive report on the election plan of the Afghan mujahidin interim government to Mr. Velayati.

Foreign Minister Velayati, for his part, while reiterating that any plan to resolve the Afghan issue should be broad-based, said: Perhaps there are only a few nations who have been oppressed as much as the Muslim and combatant nation of Afghanistan, and in view of the fact that the entire dear nation of that country has participated in its defense, it would only be proper that the rights of every strata of that innocent nation Afghanistan, should be heeded. Of course, as in the past, support for our brothers the Afghan mujahedin has been placed at the top of our priorities.

Velayati Meets Lebanese Hizballah Leaders

LD2202180290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] A number of the members from the leadership council of Lebanon's revolutionary movement of Hizballah met Mr. Velayati today and gave a comprehensive report, informing our country's foreign minister of the situation in Lebanon and the region.

Then Mr. Velayati, while placing emphasis on the unity and solidarity of the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon, particularly ulema and the Muslim brothers, stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance and cooperation with the Islamic and national forces of Lebanon in creating a united front against the usurper Zionists and the enemies of Islam.

Omani Minister Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2202112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi, Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, in a meeting with the President of the Republic Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning, informed him of a report on the 10th meeting of the heads of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

At the meeting, in which Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Velayati was also present, Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, who is also the representative of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, presented warm greetings from Sultan Qabus and the heads of the member states of the council. He then expressed the hope that the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the present juncture in time, will lead to the stability and security in the region and bring about an expansion of relations among the Persian Gulf states.

According to the report, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Sultan Qabus and heads of the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. He stressed the need for unity and cooperation among the region's countries as a guarantee for securing the interests of those countries.

Referring to the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore peace and security in the Persian Gulf region, the president of the republic said: Collectively the countries of the region, possessing good financial power and oil resources and also enjoying their own special advantages, can realize their objectives through unity and friendship.

At the end of his remarks Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We are fully prepared, despite some differences, to offer sincere cooperation with other countries of the region in an effort to expand relations.

Presents Report to Karrubi

LD2202150190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Bin-al-'Alawi, Oman's Foreign Ministry adviser, was received today by the Majeis speaker Mr. Karrubi. Bin-al-'Alawi presented a report about the 10th Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meeting, and conveyed the intention and willingness of the council to have greater contacts with Iran, aimed at expanding GCC countries' ties with Iran. He added: The council's member countries are keen that peace and tranquillity should reign on both sides of the Persian Gulf, particularly among all members of the council, and the brother country, Iran.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. Karrubi expressed thanks for Oman's efforts aimed at creating greater contacts between Iran and the region's countries, and described the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding good-neighborliness and unity among Muslims. He further pointed to the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the reconstruction of Abadan and Khorramshahr. He also said: We seek tranquillity in the region, while insisting on the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and implementation of the UN secretary genreral's plan in this connection. According to the same report, issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

Continues Talks With Velayati

LD2202203990 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—The second round of talks between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi 'Abdallah was held here this afternoon.

Mutual relations and regional and international developments, particularly the Afghan issue, were the topics of the discussions in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Bin-al-'Alawi met and conferred with two visiting leaders of the Peshawar-based seven-party Afghan Alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani and Ahmad Gailani here on the same day.

Bin-al-'Alawi is the special envoy of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council to speed up the trend of the peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

He also conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi on the same issue Wednesday [21 February].

KEYHAN HAVAI Interviews Mohtashemi

PM2102110090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 7 Feb 90 pp 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, former minister of interior and former ambassador to Syria, by KEYHAN HAVAI at the headquarters of the Tehran Militant Clerics' Society (Majma' Rohaniyun-e Mobarez-e Tehran); date not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN HAVAI] Following the acceptance of Resolution 598, there was a feeling in the country, especially among the officials that there should be some rethinking with regard to the revolution's activities in its first 10 years. There were some who even said this should include a renewed look at some of the revolution's most basic policies. Do you think these sorts of reconsiderations are necessary? If so, in what areas should they be?

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. At this time I see it as necessary to recognize a difference between the actions of the revolution and the actions of its officials during the first 10 years because there is a difference between the two. I believe there should be investigations into the actions of the regime and some of its officials to see whether or not these actions were right and what percentage of them were in line with the goals of the revolution and what percentage were not.

The principles and the main policies of the revolution for a regime and for a people who want to live in freedom are unchangeable. But of course the policies of some officials which were not in line with the revolution have to be reconsidered. There is no doubt that there is a big difference between our imam and our officials, both in thought and deeds. Anywhere the imam took matters in hand and took over executive matters, we had quite clear short-term and long-term success. But in those areas where the officials perhaps acted against the principles of the revolution or the policies of the imam, we suffered setbacks and defeat in the running of the country and also in some economic and foreign policy issues as well. Some people have said that our revolutionary stance and our revolutionary slogans are the reason for the weakness or the incorrect actions taken by our officials. This group claims that because we used revolutionary slogans and because we exhibited some radical revolutionary behavior it forced us to face problems inside the country and also abroad.

The reality is something else entirely. As I said whenever we have confronted an issue in a revolutionary way, whenever we have acted in accordance with revolutionary values and principles and whenever we have used slogans to support these, we have been successful. Whenever we have had a program other than what the revolution prescribed because of weakness or because of a lack of understanding of the revolution's principles, we have failed and there have been problems for the regime. So this analysis is quite wrong. Let us look at some examples:

In the war whenever we relied on the spirit of Hezbollah and martyrdom-seeking in accordance with the views of the imam, rather than relying on sophisticated weapons, because we were under economic sanctions, we were successful at the fronts and we also had major victories. This was something that was clear to everyone. Even the enemy admitted that the reasons for Iran's victories was the "human-wave" attacks on the front. This spirit meant that volunteers were prepared to go and clear the mine fields to open the way for the mechanized divisions.

With regard to the superpowers, it was the same way. When we had a major confrontation with the enemy—even though he is powerful—the enemy used to retreat and we were successful in foreign policy. Whenever we used diplomacy to confront bullying, power, politics, military intervention, espionage in the Persian Gulf, the downing of a passenger aircraft, naval fleets and so forth and whenever we have used logic to face the enemy, we have failed.

It is natural that these sorts of political and diplomatic confrontations, or in other words, negotiations at a table, do not get anywhere. It is the same with the PLO which after 10 years of taking up its policy of political confrontation instead of military action, has not gotten anywhere and has not managed to liberate even one inch of its lands.

So I feel it is a disloyalty to the revolution and its principles for some people to come and cover up their own weaknesses and their own wrongdoings with the excuse that our problems have been caused by our revolutionary stances, for them to say that we are facing these problems because we took that revolutionary position and because we undertook those actions. This is disloyalty to our people, to our country and to the revolution. It is better for us to admit that we have been unable to carry out the principles of the revolution, and to manage the country properly.

Of course, one must not forget that the actions during the first decade of the revolution, while there have been some weaknesses in its management, have nonetheless had many strong points as well. No country and no administration in the world can manage the affair of a country during wartime, especially a long war, without foreign help. But we managed to run the country without any help from outside for eight years in wartime conditions. We have had no foreign loans and we have been able to stand on our own feet and this is one the strong points during the first decade of the revolution.

If we put these strong points alongside the weak ones, we see that it is not like what they say here or abroad. We do not need to reconsider the actions of the revolution's first decade on a major scale. Of course in some minor points we can accept this.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] You have mentioned the leadership and the people as the most major leverage points which the leadership of the country could have used to press forth the goals of the revolution. You also said that officials have to admit that there have been some weaknesses in their actions. In what areas do you see the country's officials being at fault for not having used the power of the people?

[Mohtashemi] I said that we have had a lot of strong points, for example, getting the people involved in the matters to do with the war. There were also those cases where the imam intervened directly and matched various actions with the revolution's principles, of course then we would be successful. The world would admit to this and the Western superpower would officially announce that while the imam is alive, the West will not be able to do anything in Iran, or even in those areas where the Islamic revolution has had an influence. Now, those areas where we have not been able to hold the people, where the weaknesses of the regime and its management are obvious, are exactly those parts which have not come within the framework of the revolution, or those issues where we have not been able to understand the revolution's principles.

For example, in the Constitution, the country's economy is divided into three sectors: The major industries and large factories that are basic and fundamental, which are in the hands of the government, then there are the cooperatives whose role is emphasized. These include industrial, agricultural and mining cooperatives—and finally there is the private sector. This means that if we are not able to get the people involved through the cooperatives, then we can utilize the private sector to do the rest of the work.

Unfortunately during the past 10 years we have acted in an exaggerated manner. From the start instead of the government investing in the cooperatives, they came and pushed the issues toward the government sector.

The government sector did not have the ability to cover the whole country's facilities so the private sector took advantage of the remaining facilties, which were quite considerable.

There are some who criticize and say, if the thesis of the Constitution and the revolution are correct, why is it that during the past 10 years when everything was in the hands of the government, the private sector was able to grow like mushrooms in such a way the cash flow in the hands of the private sector reched 1,400 billion rials? At the beginning of the revolution the private sector did not even have one-third of this amount.

This is exactly because we did not carry out what the Constitution and the revolution had clarified for us. We did not strengthen the cooperatives. During the time of martyr Beheshti, who believed a lot in the cooperativess, we saw how the problem of unemployment was eased by forming about 3-4,000 cooperatives throughout the country giving jobs to 30-40,000 high-school graduates. We also improved in the production areas as well. So our weakness is exactly in those areas where we have not had a correct understanding of the revolution, of which the imam was the main architect or else in the areas where we have not been able to carry things out.

We were the victims of exaggerations during the first 10 years of the revolution. We wanted to nationalize everything, but because we could not and we did not have control, the private sector gained enormous profits and managed to dig its claws into the country's economics.

Today, we are again moving in the wrong direction. The production units, whose profits can go to the people through the cooperatives, are now being placed at the disposal of the private sector and we speak of gathering the cash that is loose. As a result the profits will once again go to the pockets of a special group of people. The masses cannot benefit from this program.

Examples such as this are available in both the internal and foreign policies.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] If you have any more comments to make as far as our first question is concerned, please do so.

[Mohtashemi] I think it necessary to mention a couple of points in terms of reconsidering the revolution's principles. One is to see who is asking for this reconsideration. It is always those people who in the first decade of the revolution did not accept the revolution, who always moaned, who always opposed everything. This line of thought will never accept the revolution and wants to see things go back to what they were during the Shah's regime. At the beginning of the revolution, during the time of the provisional government, Mr Bazargan came on television and said: People, you staged the revolution, well done! The Shah has gone. The regime is now under control, so go back and open up your shops and get on with your business, we will run the country. It seems that for Mr Bazargan the issue was only the Shah—for him to go, for another regime to replace him. As for the rest of the issues, they should remain the way they were.

This is why any corrective or revolutionary action that the imam wanted to undertake, they opposed. If a revolutionary organization was established, the liberals complained—like the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] the revolution committees or the reconstruction crusade. They opposed any move that was aimed at creating fundamental changes that would bring about a new situation in the economic, political or cultural fields or in the country's management. It is now those same people who shout those slogans and speak of the necessity to reconsider the first decade of the revolution.

The second point that I wanted to mention is the fact that from the first day the imam used to say we have to rebuild the country and one of the things that we have to do is to destroy the monarchy and the Western culture and to replace them with new principles. If there is to be a reconsideration in the management of the country, it has to be in that very system for which the people staged the revolution. We have to see whether or not we have managed to replace those destructive principles with correct ones. If we were to say all our revolutionary actions were wrong, then all that remains are the actions that took place before the revolution. This means that in 5 or 10 years' time we shall go back to the place we started from. Of course just as the traditional cultural and economic priniciples caused the people to be dissatisfied before, those same things will cause the people to become unhappy again.

So, we must first see who is speaking in these terms. Of course this line of thought belongs to the liberals and to those elements who have nothing in common with the revolution's principles or Islam. This is why they say it is necessary to reconsider the revolution. Second, if there is to be a reconsideraiton, it has to be in those very principles before the revolution which the people opposed, which caused the revolution come about.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We do not believe that there should be reconsideration into the principles of the revolution and the general actions of the officials, or the basic policies of the country during the first decade. But we do believe that the lack of programming in various fields has a lot to do with the general belief that there should be second thought about everything. This means that those who speak of a need for reconsideration are in reality blaming the whole situation on the fact that officials have not had proper programs.

[Mohtashemi] We have mentioned a series of slogans and we carried them out. The imam and the leadership of the revolution also mentioned some basic principles in some cases. Anywhere he thought the country's management was weak in terms of internal or external issues, he intervened and in those particular cases, our slogans were realized. The programs were also undertaken by the appropriate bodies because there was correct understanding of the revolution's principles—or else because the imam himself intervened in the programming.

For example the principle of neither East nor West was mentioned by the imam as a fundamental principle. It seems you are saying that the leadership of the revolution cannot intervene in details. But in this case, some of the officials were confused over this matter so the imam was forced to enter the arena and say for example that relations with Egypt had to be cut, or that we do not want relations with the United States. Are these not details? For example, the imam himself brought about the principle of "Death to America." He even opposed those people who were saying that we should carry out the slogan "Death to America" in practical terms by becoming self-sufficient and by not needing the United States—that way this principle will be carried out—but we should not say this slogan because it creates enemies for us.

Slogans are very basic in our revolution. If the slogan "Death to America" is removed, the people will not recognize their enemy. The people have to understand what sort of creature the United States is. The U.S. crimes have to be mentioned. The people have to shout "Death to America" from the bottom of their hearts so that in their actions they will also take steps against the United States. Unless you make your children scared of a savage beast, there is always the chance that your child would go toward that savage beast and would be torn apart because the child does not know the nature of the beast.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It is not our opinion that in general one should not create slogans or that one should not define depth or direction in this manner. We think that after the slogans, one should have a program and that officials, naturally, should have taken steps toward programming.

[Mohtashemi] My view is that during the first decade of the revolution, in many instances, we created slogans and we carried out actions as well. This means we shouted "Death to America" and then we laid bare America's nature for the people to see so that animosity and hatred toward the United States would find a permanent place in the people's hearts, so that they would not go toward the United States. If there were elements that wanted relations with the United States, because of the people's awareness, they would not have the courage and would not allow themselves to get to the edge of the dangerous abyss, which is getting close to the United States.

My second point is that we have to lesson our dependence on the outside world. The ways and means to do this is open to discussion. There are some who say—and it has been mentioned in the nation's Five-Year Plan—that the country has to become industrialized, that there should be increased production. No one doubts the fact that we have to become industrialized or that we have to increase production. If we could have industrial technology inside the country and we would not have to depend on the outside world; if we could have local production as well, that would be ideal. No one can oppose that. What is the best way to cut our dependence—to go after industry and the technology of industry or to go after an industrial infrastructure? The United States and the West will never give us the technology. What they inject into the Third World is assembly-line industry which will no doubt depend on them.

This means they do two things. First of all they take away agricultural self-sufficiency from the Third World and they make the Third World dependent on them for their food. They will also be dependent on whatever replaces agriculture. They take away your fertile land and build a factory on top of it. They take the farmer into the factory and turn him into a factory worker. At the same time the industry that they create is dependent on them in the sense that they have to provide the material that has to be assembled. The refrigerators, television sets and cars that we make—if they do not give us the parts we have to go after them to get them. This is dependence.

We say that if the country is to be independent, we have to go after agriculture and agro-industries. A nation can stand on its own two feet when it can feed itself. If we do not have refrigerators or color television sets, we will survive, but we cannot live if we do not have bread. It is dangerous to say that it does not matter if you do not produce your own bread as long as you make the cars. This is dependence.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Mr Mohtashemi, this is exactly what we are talking about. After 11 years you are still talking about whether we should go for industry or agriculture. We are saying that unfortunately so far there has been no exact or programmed action in terms of carrying out the principles and goals of the revolution.

[Mohtashemi] Of course this is true. The imam placed the highest value on agriculture because it carried out the principles and goals. But we are sitting here today and we aim to make the country's industrial and we do not make it clear what sort of industry we want.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] That is exactly what we are saying. Why is it that after 11 years we do not have exact plans to carry out what the imam was saying? Of course these things should have been the first things to have been discussed by the cabinet.

[Mohtashemi] There is no need to explain the imam's speeches because he did that himself. For example, the imam recognized agriculture as the main axis and he also stressed the fact that we have to cut off our dependence. He also mentioned that assembly-line industries are no good for this country because the West introduced these types of industries to our country in order to destroy our agriculture and to take away our independence. All these issues were explained in detail by the imam and one can see all these issues in his speeches and messages.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Of course you do not mean that the imam did the specialized experts' work on these subjects as well.

[Mohtashemi] No. The imam laid down the principles and then there was specialized work done on the subject as well.

For example, we presently have about 30 volumes in the Ministry of Agriculture on how to improve this country's agriculture, prepared by experts. These books were even mentioned in the cabinet at one time so that the government could present them to the Majles as proposals. Why have these policies not been implemented? This goes back to the problems that we have been facing in the past 10 years.

We have had the war during the revolution's first decade. This war lasted 8 years. We have been under sanctions the whole time. We were fighting against the whole world and it was obvious that we had to stand up and face the enemy. That meant that we could not pay attention to fringe issues. The major point during the past 10 years was to safeguard the regime and the revolution. Of course under those conditions, we could not invest in agriculture. We were making cannons and bullets and guns. If we were to stop doing that and instead pay attention to farming, the enemy would have even taken Tehran.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] There are some who say—in connection with Resolution 598—that we did not place everything at the disposal of the war. Now you speak of the war in terms of something that held back other projects. On the other hand experts can only do their work once the basic planning is done. When our officials are still thinking about whether to have industry or agriculture, what sort of work could the experts do?

[Mohtashemi] It is natural that one cannot expect agricultural analysis and advice to come from the ministries that deal with industry. That was something that was done by the Ministry of Agriculture and the reconstruction crusade. There were two or three books written by the crusade and the rest of the work was done by the experts at the Ministry of Agriculture. The fact that agriculture should be the main axis was mentioned by the imam.

Now, why have these plans not been carried out? I believe it was because we had the war, because that was what was occupying the thoughts of the officials. I do not agree with those who say that the country's entire facilities were not placed at the disposal of the war. Only 3 to 4 percent of this claim could be true. We were not able to mobilize the entire country's facilities for the war, but most of this was in the service of the war. For example under conditions when our currency income was $5 billion, $2.5 to $3 billion of this was put aside for the war, which means that 60 percent of the curency earnings were spent on the war. It was similar with other resources.

All the machinery belonging to municipal offices was given to the war effort—at the expense of the towns not being look after. It was the same for the facilities from various ministries which were placed at the disposal of the war. Other issues such as the management of the war, forgetting the mentality of the volunteer crusader and other similar things played a part at the end of the war. Only a very small percentage of this had to do with not placing all the facilities at the service of the war.

I said that during the first years of the war because we had the spirit of the crusader and Hezbollah on the fronts, and because we used the power of belief, we were very successful. But toward the end we were trying to match their one tank with one of our own, their chemical weapons with our chemical weapons, and so forth. Naturally the world is ahead of us in terms of wartime technology and in that sense we cannot compete with them. This was why we faced problems.

Let us go back to our main question. I believe that for some of the slogans we have, we also had matching programs which we carried out. The best proof that we had programs is the fact that we were able to carry them out. Without programs we could not do anything and we would have remained in the slogan stage.

In the area of foreign policy one can mention breaking of diplomatic ties with the United States, getting rid of Soviet spy diplomats, cutting relations with those Muslim countries which have relations with Israel, such as Egypt and Morocco, and practical confrontation with the Palestinian issue. On the local front one can talk about practical defense of the poor and oppressed by creating the Foundation of the Oppressed, Foundation of Housing and the imam's Aid Committee. These were among the ideas that were put into action.

So, I feel that the officials who are to place the programs on the path toward Islamic goals are weak. There were some unpleasant elements who had not felt the pains of the oppressed, who had infiltrated some posts. The imam says one should not give the revolution to those who are not one of us because they will either destroy the revolution or else they will not understand the pain of the poor people. In both cases, the goals of the revolution will not be realized.

Of course the country's administration has gotten rid of most of these people but there are still some left. Unfortunately this purge has not taken place 100 percent, especially in the major management positions. This could be one of the reasons why the programs have not been carried out. Or else we have not had programs for some of the slogans. Of course these unpleasant elements who are at the top of some jobs—where there is need for revolutionary actions—do not pursue this aim.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] During the first 10 years of the revolution, one of the most noticeable things among our officials was the political differences among them and the fact that they were grouped into factions. This is acceptable in one sense and in another is destructive. In your opinion, to what level are such differences acceptable and constructive and at what stage should they be avoided?

[Mohtashemi] As you mentioned in a general way, we have two or three ways of thinking in the country, which some people are calling factionalism. It is possible that ultimately some lines of thought can form a faction. But to say that the people who think along similar lines have gathered to form an organized faction has perhaps not happened yet.

We have in this country and also abroad one line of thought that says we have to obey blindly what the imam has said and what he has defined for the revolution, that there is no correct way to go about safeguarding the regime and the country other than to carry out the imam's line of thought in society.

Perhaps we can tell all those who think along these lines that they have a faction. But I do not believe that all these people even know one another, for them to be able to form an organized faction because I think there are a lot of them. Another line of thought thinks that we should move the country along the same lines as the industrial West. The third line thinks the country should be run along the lines of free trade.

The country's technocrats, both from the public and private sectors, believe that the nation has to become industrialized. Traditional capitalists say the country has to go in the path of private sector capitalism in trade and commerce. There are also those who believe that our country should not go toward capitalism of any kind—either industrial or traditional commercial. They say that we have to realize all of the imam's beliefs and if there is to be economic independence, this has to be within the framework of the imam's line of thought.

Of course there are two more factions that try to find an excuse for their own positions using the imam's viewpoints. For example they say that the imam at one time said that trade should be free. This means, they say, that there has to be private sector capitalism. Or else if the imam has said that we have to be self-sufficient in terms of industry, this means that the country has to be industrialized. In short, these two factions try to say their own piece using the imam's views.

To see if these factions are useful or destructive is open to discussion. One of the good things about the factions is that various lines of thought that exist in Iran and throughout the world are made clear to the people. This creates an open political atmosphere. Everyone can say what they believe and the newspapers write the various points of view. This exchange of thoughts brings about sparks of ideas and new methods and solutions for various decisions.

How dangerous is it? If it comes out of the verbal stage and gets to the elimination stage—what the imam called the hostile stage—it is dangerous. If the country wants to be successful it has to folow the path of the imam. This path approves of an exchange of ideas and believes in this. If we continue on this path, we will be successful. But if we are to pursue the goal of trying to eliminate one another, it is normal that either we will not be able to eliminate each other—which will weaken the internal forces—or even if we manage to get rid of rival factions, it will ultimately be against the interests of the country.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Have we had in this nation anything other than the "elimination" method?

[Mohtashemi] During the time of the imam, the confrontations were not of the elimination kind because the imam would not allow it. As long as a group did not want to destroy the revolution, the imam would not confront the issue in that way. He would also not allow the country's management to have elimination-type confrontations unless a group or individual wanted to destroy the revolution or the regime itself.

The grouplets were free in this country until they picked up their guns. They printed their newspapers. Even the Tudeh Party was free to speak. But when they wanted to destroy the regime, they were eliminated because they in turn wanted to eliminate and destroy the regime.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We were talking about ideological confrontations because no one supports armed confrontation. During the past few years—although the imam prevented factional confrontations—it was obvious that the spirit governing the various factions in the country was a spirit that did not tolerate the opposing factions.

[Mohtashemi] I do not accept what you are saying in this way. An elimination-type confrontation is sometimes physical which means that we destroy our opponent's character and dignity and we put him to one side along with his thoughts. Sometimes this is done with votes, with views and thoughts. The idea is for the two sides to have discussions with one group watching. Each side tries with logic to reject or eliminate his opponent's idea.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Could you give us examples of this logical confrontation between groups that claim to be in the imam's line?

[Mohtashemi] If you mean a situation where two sides sit with one another and discuss their views, I must say that in the years after the revolution, I have only seen this in the first 3 years. After that the discussions were not face to face. Ideas were expressed in personal interviews. People from various factions gave interviews and speeches and the people found out about issues in this manner. Of course then each person would put across his thoughts and would reject the views of others. For example those in favor of foreign loans would come and say that it would benefit the country and the opponents of foreign loans would stand up in the Majles and say the opposite, or else say in the press that it is not in the interest of the country.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] A few years ago Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani drew a detailed picture of the two factions during the Friday prayers, which was welcomed by the people. This was in such a way that the people really participated in the Friday prayers. But today the ideas of the factions are not mentioned that much in a way that would be easy for the people to understand, so that they can judge for themselves. There are only generalizations.

[Mohtashemi] You are right to a certain extent. It is the duty of the mass media, the radio and the television and the press because it is through them that the people find out about issues. It is possible that the people gather in small groups in mosques and universities to speak and it is up to the newspapers to report on such meetings in order to inform the people. For example in the past few months I have participated in some 150 meetings in various universities in Tehran and the provinces to express my views personally or in a round-table.

One thing that I must mention is that the press should not go after high-ranking officials to print only what they say. They should pursue thinkers and those who have an opinion, whether or not they hold an executive position. Because it is quite common that people who have no responsibility at all know political and economic issues better than some officials. If the press feel they have a revolutionary mission, they should go after those people who have an opinion and an ideology.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It would not be a bad idea to look back now in terms of your idea on elimination-type confrontations, and ask you what you thought of the confrontation between the various factions including the two clerical ones during the recent third-round elections. Were these confrontations of an elimination nature? Do you consider their moves to be in line with the imam's thoughts or do you criticize them?

[Mohtashemi] I said that our confrontation should not be of a physical elimination type, but rather be in terms of an exchange of ideas and the choosing of correct ideas. If of course one faction or individual wants to destroy the revolution or the regime, they have to be put aside and eliminated. Just as I explained about the earlier times at the beginning of the revolution.

In general the philosophy behind the formation of the militant clergy [Rohaniyuin-e Mobarez] was the same thing. There were some ideas thrown around for the third round of elections which we could not accept. There were those who during the Second Majles had acted against the principles of the revolution and the imam, about whom the imam had said a few things, who were being talked about again for the Third Majles. Some of our brothers kept saying that this would remove the ideas of the imam and the revolution but no one paid any attention to them. We had no other choice but to form the militant clergy [Rohaniyun-e Mobarez] to bring forth the revolutionary ideas of the imam and the elements involved in this.

If this means eliminating that element and that thought, then you are right because as a whole we do not accept the people who do not accept the basis of the revolution and its ideas and we wish to put them aside. We have fought our whole lives for the imam's ideas so if there is someone who does not accept it, even now we will seek to eliminate him. But for us to eliminate those elements who are within the framework of the revolution—that is not correct. We accept those who do not set out to destroy the revolution and we respect them.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It seems that the existing factions use the current atmosphere in the country as if they were political parties. This includes gaining power and taking part in elections. But the society does not benefit from them as it would from political parties in terms of preparing programs and plans, training personnel and preparing the groundworks for the people's participation in political matters. Would it not be better to turn the existing factions into political parties?

[Mohtashemi] First of all, we have to see if there is such a thing as a political party in Islam. I believe we do not have such things as political parties in Islam. By Islam I mean an ideology that claims to want to establish world rule. So it would not be right to think in terms of parties as far as Islam is concerned.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] When you were in the Ministry of Interior, you presented two conflicting ideas. At one time you endorsed parties and another time you rejected them.

[Mohtashemi] I said that the law dealing with political parties had to be implemented. I did not go into detail about the necessity of having parties in Islam. In general I believe that laws must be carried out. If there are no laws, we go into dictatorships. Of course dictators have different forms. Sometimes there is a dictator minister, sometimes a prime minister or else a president. In any case dictatorship is unacceptable. Without laws, the country would become a dictatorship.

We believe that the law must be carried out. If there is a problem in the law itself, it should be corrected, but as long as there are laws, they must be carried out. That is what I was after. This included the law of the political parties for which we made a lot of effort and there were the preliminary preparations for it but then I was not minister to see it through.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We do not believe that the parts about political parties which are mentioned in the Constitution are against Islam. In any case there were some people who believed that the reason why the law dealing with political parties was never carried out was exactly because of the differences of opinion that exist among our officials. We hope that is not the case. Anyway, our question is this: There are groups within our society which, whether we like or not, act as political parties. They send deputies to the Majles and suggest people for ministerial positions. In general they are nothing less than political parties. But unfortunately they do not do anything positive for the society. So you, or anyone else who is against parties, must also be against these pressure groups. Is that true?

[Mohtashemi] The reason why I am against the formation of parties is what we talked about before in terms of physical eliminations. In general, political parties throughout the world are formed in order to eliminate their opponents. If they take control of a regime, they want it only for themselves, even though they may not be competent. They put aside competent people because they are not with them. Parties clarify certain frameworks and they say if someone is within this framework, he is with us; if not, he is against us.

This is the general policy of parties. Even if someone outside their framework is neutral, they treat him as an opponent and eliminate him. We have seen examples of this in Iran and throughout the world many times.

In Islam, the basis is capabilities. It does not matter who is with us or with our party and who is not with us. This is why the mentality of political parties is not 100 percent in line with Islamic values.

You say there are these factions. I think they should take the good points from parties and shun the bad points, and at the same time not be political parties at all. We do not care much for names anyway.

For example, the militant clergy [Rohaniyun-e Mobarez] is an organization that does political work. It is normal for it to gather round it elements that think along the same lines. One of the good points of political parties is that they do collective positive work.

Now, is it a good idea for us to divide the country into 100 different groups or parties, all of them thinking of eliminating one another? Or is it better to have all sorts of different ideas that would promote growth in society? We must accept the positive aspects of differences of opinion and reject the negative ones. Eliminations are among the negative aspects, and growth in thought and idea, decisions, plans, and programs are among the positive ones. This is why I think it would be better if these differences of opinion that exist did not function along the lines of political parties. The negative aspect of the existing factions is that they are like parties, and this must be eliminated. Our party is the Hezbollah, the party of God. If there is a party mentioned in the Koran it is the Hezbollah, which is in the heart of the ummah.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It seems that amid all this it is this same Hezbollah ummah that is getting a bad deal. Because one of the negative aspects of this type of factionalism is that some people whose perception is not very clear support famous and dedicated individuals and achieve their aims. This is especialy true because there factions are often quite weak and it is easy to infiltrate them—both on the right and the left.

We do not doubt the negative aspects of political parties, but these types of formations, because of their weak structure, are abused by others. With regard to a vote in favor of Mr. Behzad Nabavi's credentials for joining the Majles, we saw that the dignity of the entire regime was in jeopardy. Or the recent events that have taken place, in which some have shown no consideration for the status or dignity of the leadership. All these things show that there are elements behind these events that do not have the slightest sympathy for the revolution.

[Mohtashemi] Of course I do not agree with the description that you have just given because I consider the situation with regard to infiltrators in various groups to be less of a danger. If these elements are able to do anything, it is once only and not a lasting situation, whereas political parties are organized entities which aim to eliminate one another. This is why they are more dangerous.

For example, if someone from the right wants to eliminate someone from the left, this could be done in a more effective way within the framework of a party, and the blow that will be dealt will be heavier. If it is an infiltrator, it is quite possible that his own faction may be against him and he will not be able to do much damage.

In this issue of Mr. Behzad Nabavi there were a lot of people in the opposition who thought that this was wrong. It was obvious that it was not a well organized thing but, rather, done on an individual basis, which is far less damaging. If this is confronted it can be corrected. If, however, this had been done within the framework of a party, the blow would have been heavier and it would have been impossible to control.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Of course the point is that in a political party the issue is reserched and studied on a group basis and more mature decisions are reached. In general there is no room for this sort of individual confrontation and things of that nature would not happen. If a party acts in an unexperienced manner, it will only hurt itself and will lose popularity among the people. In the meantime, no one can undertake secret actions in a party because any decisions have to be approved at the top before being put into action. Since a party is responsible for its actions, it will act in a responsible manner.

[Mohtashemi] The words of the imam were distorted by one of the newspapers....

[KEYHAN HAVAI] That can also prove our point. Never mind! We will proceed to the next question.

We have seen a decline in the student movement in the past few years. The main reason for this could be that political currents in the country abused the movement. Keeping in mind the fact that you have been in contact with this movement, how do you feel about this issue? Let us not forget that recently another political current tried to abuse this movement very clumsily.

[Mohtashemi] This question is confusing. What do you mean by "student movement?" We must consider what in the past was refered to as the student movement, which you now say has declined. If you mean the political student movement and the universities, we must give one kind of answer and say, for example, that the students have now lost their political motivations. If you mean the organized bodies in the form of Islamic associations or the union of Islamic societies and so forth, then that is another matter.

My view is that there have been efforts in the past one to two years to remove politics from universities, to have students not get involved in politics at all. There have also been comings and goings in and out of universities by certain clerics who have had some responsibility for causing the students to lose some of their passion for the revolution and Islam. But despite all this, we cannot conclude that the student movement has declined.

The things that the student movement does now in terms of politics, it was not able to do before. At present the students involved with the Islamic associations or the bureau for strengthening unity are very much involved in politics. They even put forward candidates to the Majles. In what other so-called free country can you have students putting forward candidates to parliament, and being so much involved in politics? On this basis, since the revolution, we have seen a political growth in the universities, and we see that it is increasing.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] The lack of political parties has allowed students to take part in elections. You cannot say this is a sign of growth in the student movement. On the other hand students are involved in a number of other issues including guilds and educational, cultural, and idealogical matters, as well as the usual political issues of the nation. Under present conditions students here are involved only in the country's political issues, especially around election time. They do not have much to do with other issues that interest them, including the guilds, the thought process, and cultural and educational matters.

Political groups throughout the country are also not paying attention to the interests of this sector. They do not provide intellectual, cultural, and political nourishment for the students. This has caused cultural shortcomings at university level.

[Mohtashemi] We may be able to establish a mold for the student movement and say if they get out of this mold they are no longer a student movement or else they are in decline. Temporary conditions dictate that the process of the student movement in terms of culture, politics, or professional affairs may be different. This difference may be taken by us indicate either a decline or, on the contrary, progress.

Under the previous regime Islamic thought was attacked as part of the regime's policies. The Shah used to encourage this in order to slow down the Islamic movement and ultimately destroy it. He believed that if the students were allowed to grow up in an atmosphere full of Islamic thought the future government of the country would fall into the hands of Muslims with revolutionary ideas. This is why he tried to cause distortions in the ideas of Muslim students.

On the other hand when the students' Islamic movement felt threatened and when leaders of student Islamic movement such as martyrs Motahhari, Mofatteh, or Beheshti fought against distorted ideas, they made an even greater effort to promote Islamic culture. At the moment there is no danger of an anti-Islamic tendency in the universities in that sense, so Muslim students are not making much effort to spread Islamic culture. This, however, does not mean that the students movement is in decline. It is only temporary conditions that have created this circumstance.

On this basis, in one sense we can accept this decline, but on the other hand we can see a growth in the student movement. With regard to political groups using the student movement, I must say that such groups want to exploit the students to their own advantage. They will use anything for their own advantage.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Even without considering the interests of the students or universities involved?

[Mohtashemi] Yes. They seek their own ends. It is normal for such groups to mushroom at election time. If you pay attention you can see how many elements from such groups outside the universities, who have infiltrated the scene or have somehow become involved, are behind the "societies" and "organizations" trying to exploit the student movement.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Does this not prove that it is wrong for any group to abuse the student movement?

[Mohtashemi] Sometimes we see that the atmosphere in the universities is marked by inexperience and one that needs looking after. Of course then political groupings try to exploit the situation to their own ends.

I do not agree with this. I believe that students are among the most experienced in this country. Someone who has managed to get into university is among the brightest in the nation. So it is possible for something wrong to be done in the name of the student movement, but it is not really the student movement that is involved.

It is natural that any action by groups outside the universities to lure the student movement will have negative results. It will face the negative attitudes of the students themselves. Perhaps you have heard that our students are rejecting certain ideas and lines of thought. This proves that our students are mature thinkers. This is why I think that the student movement has been used and will continue to be used; but it will cause students to adopt a negative attitude toward the groups concerned.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Unfortunately, you regard the student movement as on a par with professional political work. We believe that the university is a place for political work in terms of increasing students' political understanding. So it is necessary to keep this separate from political parties outside the campus. The intervention of political groups and parties will confuse students' political work. For example, the various political groups are confronting each other for various reasons. It is definitely not in the interest of the students to drag these conflicts onto the campus. At present unfortunately some factions have dragged their problems into the universities without intending to conduct proper political work throughout the universities.

Under these conditions, the student movement and the university are used to further the cause of partisan and factional interests. What is being ignored is the special interests of the students. This is why we are witnessing a decline in cultural activity throughout the university and increased intense political activity. This is also why the universities do not have the power to satisfy the students' cultural needs.

There must be political work in the university, but for the sake of the students themselves the political groups must prevent the students from becoming involved in everyday political activity.

[Mohtashemi] You have a number of preconceived ideas on which basis you make a number of assertions. We do not agree with the basis of your ideas. You say that political groups from outside guide the students on the campus in one direction and, for example, ask them to endorse their lists of candidates. That is not the case at all. It is is the student himself who feels he has to define the political direction inside and outside the university. This is why he puts forward a candidate and becomes involved.

In our society the people pay a lot of attention to views in our universities, and if the student movement endorses a candidate for the Majles it can provide a good indication for our people to follow, because they know that because of the student's involvement in politics, they will put forward good candidates. So it is the students themselves who are active in putting forward candidates. You may ask why these lists of candidates match the lists provided by various groups. This depends on various people's ideas; otherwise no one forces the students to approve of a certain candidate. I do not know who claims that students are forced to endorse certain people.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] There is no question of being forced. We are saying that even if the students themselves want to get involved in this sort of political activity, politicians should prevent them from getting involved, because it is not in the student's interests.

[Mohtashemi] Do you think that the student movement should put forward candidates or not?

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Yes. But this sort of contact between political parties and the student movement causes the student movement to act like a political party. When that happens the tensions and conflicts of the political world enter the campus. Since this is an emotional group, tensions will be created between students who have to sit at the same bench and study together.

[Mohtashemi] There are differences of opinions in all fields, including politics, but despite these differences, there are people working together who have different views. Just because there are differences of opinion among merchants, clerics and students, it does not mean that they have to fight each other all the time. In the Majles there are deputies working side by side who have very different views.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Whether you accept it or not, our universities lack that internal productivity. Many of our students face cultural, political, and economic questions to which there are no answers from within their universities. Unfortunately those who carry out political activity on the campus want to achieve short-term political objectives and do not aim to encourage political understanding and growth within the student body. This is very worrying.

[Mohtashemi] During the latest round of elections there were several meetings in Tehran University and a lot of discussion by all factions. These meetings played an important part by making students aware of the political situation inside and outside the country. In effect what had not happened in the past two years in the universities, happened in one or two months. The students understood the issues. Without the elections, our students would not know about the Five-Year Plan or the internal or external issues facing us, including a tendency by some people to establish ties with certain foreign countries.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] That is very transitional and has no depth.

Let us go into the next question. It is the anniversary of the imam's decree on Salman Rushdie. Unfortunately, despite the fact that we were the front-runners in this issue, we have not done anything serious about it during the past year. We did not even hold an international seminar on the subject. Why not?

[Mohtashemi] Your question and your criticism are quite correct. This is a serious shortcoming on the government's part, especially the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propaganda Office, the theological centers, and so forth. The ideas and motives of those who want to deal a blow to Islam and the Islamic revolution by nurturing people like Salman Rushdie have to be clarified. There are political moves such as cutting off Islamic and revolutionary roots, which should all be brought out into the open. Also, the unity that was created among Muslims over the Rushdie affair should have been strengthened by holding a series of seminars and so forth. Ulema and politicians from Islamic nations should have come together to discuss this important issue: unfortunately this did not happen.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] By issuing his decree the imam started a huge movement in the Islamic world. But, as followers of that great man, we have so far not done much in this regard. Books could have been published for distribution among Muslims worldwide.

[Mohtashemi] That is not the point at all. Sometimes there are thoughts or feelings against things held holy by Muslims. Then, of course you must write articles to prove them wrong. But when a series of insults are published, especially in the form of a novel, what can you send in the way of a reply?

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We do not want to give details of what was actually written in this book, but we must expose this anti-Islamic movement and the political movement that lies behind it.

Some time ago a British Muslim wanted to come to Iran to change the minds of Iranian officials about Rushdie, because he believed that the punishment for a heretic is not the death sentence.

At the very least we could have gathered all the decrees of Islamic ulema on Rushdie and published them so that our own Muslims would not fall into the trap of Islam's enemies. Thus they would have found out that the punishment for people like Rushdie is definitely death.

[Mohtashemi] Unfortunately, they did not do this and many other things that could have been done.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] In some analyses there has been an effort to portray the revolution's future as a failure. This group believes that with the passing of its founder, the charismatic leader of the revolution has gone. How true do you believe this is? What elements in Iran's revolution can guarantee that the imam's line will be continued?

[Mohtashemi] We accept the fact that the imam was present on the Iranian scene as a personality that was deep in the hearts of the people, here and abroad. He had an extremely holy air and a huge personality. So much so, that people followed him willingly and never dreamed of going against what he said.

Now he is not here and there is a real void in our revolution, but this does not signal the revolution's faiure. It would be very naive to think that this enormous wave that has been created in the Islamic world with the revolution will stop with the passing of its founder. This wave has been created and will continue its own way.

The revolution has established certain principles and values, and even if the imam is not here, those values and principles will remain. Sometimes it may be hard to find someone committed to those principles, or else perhaps that person does not have the courage to implement those principles.

The imam is the architect of the revolution and has defined its framework. If he were here himself he would have been better able to safeguard the revolution. But although now the imam is not here, the revolution is still here. The people who follow the line of the imam must show more sympathy and implement the imam's thoughts.

What factors can safeguard the continuation of the imam's line? Of course there must be a number of factors, and there are certain obstacles that must be removed. In our country it is necessary to have a leader after the imam, so as to safeguard the aforementioned principles, and it is also necessary to keep the people involved. This will help continue the imam's line. One of the issues to which the imam paid a great deal of attention was the people. We would be making a mistake if we thought we could continue the path of the imam and the revolution without having the people's support for the revolution. We must provide and strengthen all the things that help keep the people involved.

The obstacles that must be removed include the issue of having expertise without belief and dedication, the presence in the country's executive system of people who do not believe in the revolution, and the unconditional use of expert opinion without attention to other factors involved. These are the things that will cause the imam's line of thought not to continue.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] But in practice it has been proven that some of the people who claim to be followers of the imam do not properly utilize those elements that strengthen the imam's principles. They do not even allow others to utilize them.

[Mohtashemi] I mentioned one law which is the condition for the continuation of the imam's line of thought, which included the strengthening of certain principles and the removal of certain obstacles. Why is it that some people are not allowing them to be utilized? We must find the cause in order to remove it. If we do not use the leadership and the presence of the people to achieve the imam's aims, the Iranian revolution will not reach its goals. Of course this does not mean that the revolution will be destroyed, because it is has its own revered place.

The people in any Islamic country can utilize these principles and build a regime on these principles. In many countries there are now groups and parties which are making an effort to carry out the kind of Islamic revolution that the imam founded. On this basis we say that if the revolution wants to reach its goals in this country it must follow the imam's path. This path can be achieved by the leadership and the people. If either of these two elements is ever removed, we will have real problems in achieving our goals.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It has been said that you praised Ayatollah Khamane'i more than others did when he was chosen as leader. Could you say why this was?

[Mohtashemi] The point was that many of the Islamic movements and peoples abroad with whom we had contacts—including the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims—felt an enormous loss after the death of the imam. They said that with the death of the imam they had lost everything they had.

The experts designated a leader for the Islamic Republic and announced that this leader would be Ayatollah Khamene'i. In those meetings I told these gentlemen that the experts' announcement had two aspects. On the one hand, since the experts were chosen by the Iranian people, it was normal for them to choose a leader for the Iranian people. On the other hand these same experts were approved by the imam as leader of the revolution and the world's oppressed. So the person that they chose would also be significant in terms of his relations with the imam and the imam's approval as leader of the world's Muslims.

I made exactly the same points at a meeting held of the militant clergy [Rohaniyun-e Mobarez] in the martyr Mottahari school. Keeping in mind the analysis of from the Western media, which said that the regime would fall apart after the imam's death, the appointment of a new leader was shattering for them.

My analysis for the world's Muslims created some hope for them and also defeated the West's analysis, which was that the revolution would lose its international leadership with the imam's death. This is the statement that has taken hold abroad, and if it were not repeated by the militant clergy [Rohaniyun-e Mobarez] and other people whose opinions matter is the world, it could not have been so effective. Let us forget abotu certain factions who only see what is immediately around them and do not see things in a world context.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] What is your opinion on the normalization of relations between Iran and the United States? Some people are making an effort in this direction and they impart an ideological aspect to it.

[Mohtashemi] With regard to relations with the United States, we must first see who is making an effort in that direction. We must also see who is against this, and then we must make up our mind. I believe that in terms of belief, revolutionary matters, ideology, and national and people's interests, it is necessary to reject relations with the United States.

In terms of belief, we reject all dependence and all devilish and colonial powers. In return, they too reject all the revolution's values. Sometimes we say that maintaining relations can itself be considered in terms of values, not the goals such as rejecting the powers and dependence on them. In fact the revolution's principles are denied in this sort of thinking. We have nothing to do with this line of thought. For us the revolution's principles are considered as values. Anyone who is against these is also against the values.

The United States has the same attitude to the revolution. That country is not happy just to have relations with Iran; it wants to destroy our revolution's thoughts and principles. As long as we follow revolutionary ideas in our internal and external policies, the United States will not establish ties with us, and if it does, it is in order to destroy us.

As far as national interests are concerned, it is the same. This country was under the control of the United States and Britain for 50 years and it paid that high price to get rid of these powers, to cut off U.S. interests from this country. Now, if these relations are restored, it means that these countries will return, because relations would not remain at the political level. They will be followed by economic ties and so forth. These relations will be like those that the United States maintains with other Third World nations and other countries in this region. The net result will be nothing but a blow to our national interests.

In addition to all this, our people would feel defeated. They will say that they fought for 10 years to stand firm against world aggressors only to see Americans back in this country again. So, neither our people nor our ideological beliefs allow us to have ties with the United States. If that ever happens we can definitely say goodbye to both our people and our revolution.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Do you see this principle holding for times?

[Mohtashemi] The imam said relations with the United States were impossible. He said: "If the United States becomes decent," and then he said; "Our relations with the United States are like the relations between a lamb and a wolf." Can the wolf ever change its nature? It is doubtful.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We could reach a situation and a level of power where relations with the United States could not damage us in any way. Could we still talk this way at such a time?

[Mohtashemi] If God is willing and if we become the kind of power that would be able to prevent U.S. corruption inside Iran, to be able to have normal and sensible relations, then that is another matter.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It is said that you, as a member of the radical faction in Iran, are preventing moderates from getting close to the United States. How do you feel about this statement?

[Mohtashemi] The atmosphere that the imam created in this country is unique in the world. First, the imam used to say things clearly without paying attention to the rules and regulations set down by the corrupt regimes of the world. He had no fear. His statements find their own way in the societies of the world and among the peoples of the world and they have their own followers. On the other hand the imam has trained the current generation of Iranians to say what they think.

When the imam was alive various newspapers even said certain things about the imam's views and made criticisms, but the imam tolerated this. Until the last days of the imam's life the Liberation Movement, the liberals, other deviant organizations, and so forth were all present in Iran and published statements every day. With regard to freedom of expression within the regime, there were no limitations and everyone was allowed to do this.

I think it will strengthen the regime if people are allowed to express their views, especially those in line with the revolution's goals.

Without a doubt after the imam this sort of exchange of ideas will continue to be useful. They will strengthen the regime and prevent possible mistakes. If the revolution's major issues are not discussed in this way, it is possible that the country's officials will fall into the trap set by the revolution's enemies, under the propaganda bombardment of the Western media and the trained puppets that they may have inside the country. If, however, there are people to tell society about such issues, of course the regime will become shock-resistant. This is only possible by conveying the views of people sympathetic to the revolution, who are, at the same time, not linked to the material world.

Someone came to tell me that the United States has decided to kidnap me because it has been proven in the United States that I acted against the national interests of that country. That person said that according to a new law passed in the United States, they could arrest me and take me to their country for trial. Well, I am still alive, living on borrowed time. I have been living on borrowed time for several years.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] It seems that this applies to many officials. Ayatollah Khamene'i and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani have at least one assassination attempt behind them.

[Mohtashemi] That is true.

In any case, I feel it is a good thing to discuss matters freely. It is not like they think when they say that some people want to do certain things. None of these people who are talked about in anonymous terms really want to establish ties with the enemy.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] In order to show the world that hatred toward the United States is limited, the Americans narrow all anti-American actions down to Iran. Amid all this there has been a lot of propaganda about you personally. How do you feel about this?

[Mohtashemi] Of course I believe that it is necessary to deal blows to American or Israeli interests in any way possible. The question of whether or not I am involved—I do not think that any sensible person would accept it. We in Iran—how could we possibly be involved in every incident that happens in Lebanon?

[KEYHAN HAVAI] We have asked some people to say what they consider the most serious threat to the revolution. Now, we ask you your opinion on this.

[Mohtashemi] I think the biggest threat to the revolution is to forget and reject the imam and the assumption that since the imam is now gone his thoughts and his path must be forgotten, on the pretext that new conditions prevail in the country now.

This could be the biggest threat to the revolution, because in the shadow of the imam's spiritual presence, there is unity. Without the spiritual presence of the imam, we cannot have unity and we will start to have differences even with regard to trying to create unity. By rallying round the imam's thoughts and the revolution's values we can create unity, we have the presence of the leadership, we have the people's involvement, and we have other nations' support.

Thank God, all the officials are students of the imam and like to follow his path, so nothing will happen. But if one day the imam is forgotten and rejected, that day a real blow will be dealt to the revolution.

Minister Seeks Benefit of Canadian Expertise

LD2202222390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Charles Barret, head of the delegation representing the Canadian export development company who has come to Iran to review grounds for economic and technical cooperation, and his accompanying delegation met Mr. Banki, the deputy minister in charge of the steel sector of the Mines and Metals Ministry, this afternoon. In that meeting, Mr. Banki expressed gratitude for the Canadian's offer to participate in our country's reconstruction projects. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to benefit from the experiences of foreign experts as a means of increasing its technical expertise and know-how. Ways of establishing bilateral cooperation in the industrial and mining fields were discussed at the meeting.

Nepal

Banned Party Chief Cited on Multiparty System

BK2302092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The leader of the banned Nepalese Congress, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, has reiterated that nothing short of multiparty system will meet the aspirations of the Nepalese people. Mr. Ganesh Man Singh—who is under house arrest in Kathmandu—told our correspondent, Harish Segon, over telephone that interim government should be set up immediately to conduct free and fair polls to usher in multiparty democracy. He made it clear that the movement for restoration of complete democracy will continue unless these minimum demands are met.

Replying to a question, Mr. Genesh Man Singh charged the government with giving the movement a violent turn. He maintained not in a single case was police firing warranted. He said his party believed in nonviolence and peaceful methods to achieve the goal of a multiparty system.

In Nepal, 40 sitting members of the country's parliament, including a former prime minister, have censured the Marich Man Singh Shrestha ministry for the current spate of violence in the country. In a statement, they called for a political solution to the current pro-democracy agitation and said violence from any side was undesirable. The leaders held the reactionary forces in the government responsible for the present situation and said the Nepalese were all united for the sovereignty of the country.

Meanwhile, police investigations are under way in Chitwan District to file a suit against two members of the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament], Mr. Bin Bahadur Shrestha and Mr. Jagrit Prasad Baswan. The two members were arrested at Bharatpur on the 18th of this month in connection with the movement in favor of multiparty system in the country.

Pakistan

U.S. Concern Over Nuclear Power Plant 'Baseless'

BK2202161090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has described the fears expressed by the United States on the proposed sale of an nuclear power plant by France as baseless and has also expressed determination to implement a peaceful nuclear program. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today described the U.S. reaction as unjustifiable. A U.S. State Department spokesman had commented on the proposed deal.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan is fully aware of the the U.S. concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and it has made assurances at global level that its nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purposes. The nuclear power plant that will be provided by France will be acquired according to international norms, including the guarantees for importing nuclear materials.

The spokesman said that at a joint press conference with the French President Mitterrand yesterday, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reiterated Pakistan's determination for realizing the goals of the nuclear program and said if India agrees to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Pakistan will also sign it.

Stressing the need for a policy free from discrimination, the spokesman said Pakistan has made several proposals for bilateral, regional, or international agreements for a guarantee to keep South Asia a nuclear-free zone. At the news conference, President Mitterrand had expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. The spokesman said that based on the announcements made by the Pakistani prime minister and the French president, every country should be satisfied over the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program.

When asked whether the United States or any other country will bring pressure on France to abrogate the proposed agreement, the spokesman said France will adhere to it.

When asked how the United States reacted when the PRC announced it would provide a 300-mw nuclear power plant to Pakistan, the spokesman said the same reaction was expressed at that time as has been done in connection with the proposed agreement with France. There is no reason that Pakistan will yield to such pressure from any country. In reply to a question, the spokesman said: India does not want Pakistan to acquire anything; we are not worried about the Indian reaction. If there are any steps against the purchase of the French plant by Pakistan, we will respond to it. He said India is also purchasing two 900-mw nuclear power plants from France.

Jamiyat-i Islami Chief on Need for 'Nuclear Device'

BK2202140090 Lahore THE NATION in English 22 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Multan—The Amir of Jama'at-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad has stressed the need for fabricating nuclear device to meet Indian threat. He contended that the building of nuclear device is imperative to neutralise Indian nuclear threat.

Addressing a big public meeting at Chowk Vehari Road, Multan on Wednesday, Qazi Hussain Ahmad urged the Government to declare Jehad for the freedom of Occupied Kashmir. He said, the prosperity of Pakistan was mainly based on Kashmir because all major rivers stemmed from there. He announced that India had no right on Kashmir because it comprised majority of the Muslims who wanted its accession to Pakistan.

He maintained that India had pledged at UN to hold plebiscite in Kashmir and Pakistan was a direct party to the dispute. He urged the government to follow clear-cut policy on Kashmir and relinquish its dubious stand.

State Minister Urges Cooperation With USSR Media

BK2302033290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Saeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting, in an interview with the Soviet news agency TASS, said that Pakistan wants to promote cooperation between Pakistan and Soviet media. The minister of state said that through the exchange of information, the two countries would learn more about each other.

Sunni Muslim Scholar Assassinated 22 Feb

BK2302080290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 23 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen assassinated an important Sunni Muslim scholar, sparking violence in the Punjab town of Jhang that left one dead and eight injured, police sources said Friday [23 February].

Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi, 32, a vocal opponent of the Shiite Muslim sect, died in indiscriminate firing late Thursday by four assailants in his home town of Jhang 225 kilometres (140 miles) south of here, the sources said. Press reports said that he was fired upon while leaving his house to attend a wedding ceremony in his neighbourhood.

Maulana Jhangvi, a critic of the late Iranian Shiite spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, was known for his anti-Shiite views. He founded the Anjuman-i Sipah Sahaba, an organisation to defend the Sunni faith and its saints after the Islamic revolution in Iran.

In a speech last week, he had warned the authorities that "a conspiracy has been hatched out in Iran, Dubai and Pakistan to assassinate me" between February 20 and 25, "but the local administration did not heed his warning," the mass circulation Urdu language daily JANG said.

The young religious orator had a considerable following among the students of Sunni schools where cassettes of his speeches were listened to avidly.

His assassination triggered widespread condemnation and residents of Jhang took out a mourning procession. JANG said the procession was fired upon from an unknown place, and a 14-year old boy was killed and eight people injured.

A rampaging crowd attacked and set on fire shops and houses belonging to members of rival sects and government buildings, including a local police station.

Punjab chief minister and leader of the opposition, Nawaz Sharif, expressed shock and grief over the "cold blooded murder", describing the death of Mr. Jangvi as a big blow to Islamic forces in the country.

Religious organisations and Muslim scholars condemned the murder and demanded the immediate arrest of his assassins. A Shiite opposition leader, Murtaza Pooya, also called upon the authorities to take strong action against the culprits. Protest demonstrations were planned at other places after prayers Friday.

Foreign Minister Comments on Kashmir Issue

BK2202164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Senate today completed its debate on the current situation in occupied Kashmir. Winding up the debate, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, said the Simla agreement recognizes Kashmir as a disputed issue. He categorically rejected the distorted interpretation of the Simla agreement by India. He said it does not debar Pakistan from raising the issue at international fora, besides pursuing it bilaterally. He assured the house that Pakistan was examining various options on the Kashmir issue, and consultations with friendly countries were continuing. Pakistan on its part was committed to durable peace in the region and establishment of tension-free relations with India. This was, however, possible only if outstanding problems such as Kashmir dispute were amicably resolved.

Referring to the Indian threat, the foreign minister said: We are capable meeting any threat (?equally).

Earlier, eight more senators took part in the debate calling for adoption of a firm stand on the evolving situation in occupied Kashmir. They are Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Mr. Mehmud Ahmad Mentu, Mr. Asaf Fakhruddin Wardhak, Mr. Hussain Baksh Jogezai, Qazi Abdul Latif, and Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Bukhari.

The Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, in his remarks commended the suggestions given by senators and hoped that the government will benefit from these suggestions.

The house later adjourned sine die.

Kashmir State President Assails India's Policy

BK2202140890 Lahore THE NATION in English 22 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], has opined that Pakistan should not have economic and social ties with India until the Kashmir issue is resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris.

In an interview here on Wednesday, he said: "We want normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan but, he regretted, India is following dominant policies and wants to see Pakistan as a camp follower."

Referring to the present situation in Held Kashmir, he said violence, terrorism and brutality by usurpers are increasing day by day but the movement of freedom and faith could not be crushed by the Indian aggressors, he added.

He asked the Indian Government to hold plebiscite according to the UN resolutions to accord the right of self-determination to the people of Held Kashmir.

He said, he is ready to meet Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto any time to discuss ways and means to resolve Kashmir issue.

Answering to a question about the change of Minister of Kashmir Affairs, he said it was [Mir Baz Mohammad] Khetran himself who used to create tension with AJK Government.

To another question, he said the Gilgit and Baltistan are integral part of AJK and any controversy on the issue should come to an end.

He said, time to time India circulates misleading literature on Kashmir throughout the world and it was the duty of the Federal Government to counter it by apprising the world of the factual position on Kashmir.

Mujahidin Faction Leader on Elections, Kashmir

BK1702161090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Iran-based Afghan mujahidin alliance leader 'Abdul Karim Khalili has said we are is ready to participate in the elections toward forming an interim government in Afghanistan, provided it is arranged by the mujahidin group which has been active in the holy war in Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said, however, we will not participate in the elections which will be held by the present Afghan Interim Government, which has already completed one year of its legitimate term. He said he has met with the mujahidin group leaders, now based in Peshawar, and is hopeful of a solution to this issue. Khalili said we support every political solution to the Afghan issue which is acceptable to the Afghan people. But, he said, we will not accept the solution thrust by foreign forces.

The Iran-based Afghan mujahidin leader condemned India's atrocities on Kashmiri Muslims, who are struggling for realizing their right of self-determination. He said India has adopted an inimical stand against the Afghan Muslims during their struggle against foreign domination and now it is killing the defenseless Muslims in Kashmir.

Foreign Assistance for Afghan Refugees Declines

BK1602100090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Feb 90 pp 1, 8

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar, Feb. 15: A crisis-like situation has developed here as the Afghan refugees commissionerate NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] finds it increasingly difficult to get aid commitments from foreign donors to take care of the 67,000 newly-arrived Afghan refugees who for the past one year have survived on sporadic donations from voluntary relief agencies.

These refugees started arriving in Pakistan in March last year when the battle for Jalalabad erupted. Most of them belong to Nangarhar Province but some refugees also came from Laghman, Konarha and Baghlan provinces. They were lodged in open spaces available in old refugees camps like Nasir Bagh and Hawai (Akora Khattak) and in two newly-established camps at Khweshgi near Nowshera and at Shindhand near Kohat.

The last refuges population count in NWFP was 2.244 million while government officials estimate that there were another two to three lakh unregistered Afghan refugees in the province.

Another 2,000 refugees recently reached NWFP from Afghanistan's Laghman Province. They have been lodged in the Munda refugees camp near Charsadda. A small number of refugees have returned to Afghanistan in spite of the fact that Mujahidin claim to control most of the countryside. Striking examples are Konarha, Paktia, Takhar and certain provinces in central Afghanistan where the Kabul regime has no presence.

Gulzar Khan, Commissioner Afghan Refugees NWFP, informed that he had approached UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], European Economic Community, World Food Programme [WFP], Arab aid agencies and other international donors to come up with firm commitments to assist the 67,000 new arrivals. He said EEC was considering the request. He reminded that WFP, the West German agency HELP [expansion unknown], Austrian relief committee DACAAR [expansion unknown], and certain Arab relief organisations had been of immense help in looking after these refugees for the past one year. They not only provided them food items but also ran schools, basic health units, etc.

Gulzar Khan pointed out that the foreign assistance for Afghan refugees in Pakistan had declined since the past two to three years. He said the food basket provided to refugees which in the past included wheat, sugar, tea leaves, dry skimmed milk, edible oil and kerosene oil had shrinked. Now only wheat supplied by World Food Programme was given to refugees regularly while supplies of edible oil had become irregular. He reminded that Pakistan government supplied half a tonne of wheat from its stocks recently to fill the shortfall. He said his office received Rs. 1.6 million in foreign assistance for the refugees while it needed Rs. 2.3 million to properly look after them.

Indian Embassy Denies Report on Not Issuing Visas

BK2202131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has denied reports that the commission and the consulate general's office in Karachi are not issuing visas to Pakistani citizens wishing to visit India for legitimate purposes. It said visas are being issued in Islamabad and Karachi to all Pakistani citizens, including ordinary travelers, intellectuals, writers, government and nongovernment officials on all working days.

Sri Lanka

Newsman Working for Press Agency Kidnapped

BK1802094690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 18 (AFP)—Gunmen on Sunday [18 February] kidnapped a journalist working for the Rome-based INTER PRESS SERVICE (IPF) from his home here, military officials said.

Richard de Zoysa, a Sri Lankan who heads the IPS office here and was recently designated editor for Europe, was taken by gunmen, one of whom was dressed in a police-type uniform, a military spokesman said. He said the motive and those responsible for the pre-dawn kidnapping were not immediately known.

Mr. de Zoysa in his mid-thirties, is also a television personality and a stage and screen star who has appeared in several popular local productions. He was deputy editor for Asia and Colombo correspondent for IPS before being appointed editor for Europe early this month, a family friend said.

Said Killed; Minister Comments

BK2002062690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 20 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Tuesday [20 February] expressed shock and distress over the abduction and killing of foreign correspondent Richard de Zoysa here as a top level investigation got underway.

The bullet-riddled body of Mr. de Zoysa, working for the Rome-based INTER-PRESS SERVICE (IPS), was found Monday evening on a beach just outside Colombo. Police said Mr. de Zoysa, a Sri Lankan national, had been shot in the neck and head and his body had been thrown into the sea. He was the first foreign correspondent to be killed in strife-torn Sri Lanka. Mr. de Zoysa was also a popular television and stage actor as well as a compere of public functions.

Government radio quoted State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne as saying that they were deeply distressed over the killing. The minister said that Mr. de Zoysa had been the only person willing to compete at the government's gam udawa or village reawakening ceremony at a time when artistes were threatened by anti-government militants.

No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's abduction and killing of Mr. de Zoysa and the government has flatly denied speculation that security forces were involved.

The Defence Ministry said a team headed by a senior superintendent had been appointed to investigate the killing.

Fishermen at Koralawella, just south of here, found the body which was taken to the Colombo South Hospital for identification by relatives.

Last year the Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP) assassinated the head of the state radio, a television news editor, a popular television presenter and a woman who sang at gam udawa ceremonies.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka (FCASL) expressed its shock and grief over the slaying and said in a statement: "We urge the authorities to bring to justice those responsible for this horrendous crime and express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family."

Mr. de Zoysa was deputy editor for Asia and Colombo correspondent for IPS before being appointed as editor for Europe early this month, a family friend said.

Wijeratne: Indian Official's Warning 'Ridiculous'

BK2202103090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0914 GMT 22 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne termed as ridiculous and peculiar the warning by an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman to Sri Lanka to ensure the safety of Tamils in the island.

Mr. Wijeratne at his weekly cabinet news briefing said that the warning looked "ridiculous" because the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] had been arming and encouraging certain sections of Tamils, such as the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] groups to fight the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

He said "the media knows that the IPKF had given arms to certain Tamil groups and having armed them to fight, it is very peculiar to make demands of Sri Lanka to ensure the safety and security of the Tamils."

The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, said "I wish to tell this individual of the Indian External Affairs Ministry—obviously a bureaucrat—that we don't accept warnings from a foreign country."

Mr. Wijeratne said that he did not think the Indian prime minister or the external affairs minister of India would have told him (the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman) to do this.

"I do not want to tarnish political personalities but he (the spokesman)" is sticking his neck out, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's cabinet news briefing were Minister of Industries Ranil Wickremasinghe; Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; Secretary Defence General Cyril Ranatunge; and Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera.

Citizens Asked To Surrender Unlicensed Weapons

BK2202114990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] All persons who possess firearms, weapons or explosives which are unlicensed, or with temporary permits or with letter of authority have been instructed to hand them over to the nearest police station on or before the 1st of next month. The minister of defense says any person being detected in possession of any such weapons after this week will [word indistinct] be charged in accordance with the law.

Weapons, Supplies Recovered From JVP Hideouts

BK2302114690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1026 GMT 23 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Security forces recovered from a JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] hideout at Bowala, Hambantota, three swords, locally-made hand bombs and police-type trousers, shirts, and caps, states a government communique issued today.

The communique further states that in Ratnapura, during a cordon and search operation, security forces seized from a JVP hideout four repeater shotguns, [number indistinct] 16-bore shotguns, one 12-bore shotgun, four muzzle-loading guns, M-14 grenades, 68 identity cards, and a radio transmitting set.

In Kandy, two persons posing as Army personnel, who robbed a radio cassette recorder from a house in Unanagala were subsequently arrested by security forces.

In Monaragala, during a cordon and search operation, security forces arrested five subversives.

In the north western district of Kurunegala, security forces recovered from a JVP hideout a muzzle-loading gun, fuse wire, detonators and several rounds of ammunition.

In Ampara, one Marakanalu Thavarajah was shot and killed by an armed gang alleged to be of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front].

Wijeratne on Surrender of Weapons, Detainees

BK2302112490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, has said that all persons now holding firearms will have to surrender them to the police on or before the 1st of March or face arrest. He told the weekly post-cabinet press conference that the objective of the decision is to rid the country of the gun culture.

Minister Wijeratne said that there were 10,235 detainees and 8,425 who surrendered under rehabilitation. The separation of the hard-core from the rest was now in progress. Once they are identified, those who should be released will be freed and those who are to be rehabilitated will be kept, the minister said.

Referring to a news item in THE HINDU daily on the 17th of February, under the headline "India Cautions Sri Lanka," the minister said that the Government of India should take a serious view of this matter.

Northeast Chief Opposes Dissolution of Assembly

BK2002025690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeast Province of Sri Lanka, Mr. Varadaraja Perumal, has opposed any move for dissolving the provincial council. He was commenting on the reported move of the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, to effect a cease-fire among the rival Tamil groups and to dissolve the provincial council as a first step toward solving the ethnic problem. Mr. Perumal said such a dissolution would only help the design of the Colombo government to deny the process of devolution to the Tamil majority council.

Meanwhile, one constable was killed and 13 others injured when a group of Sri Lankan Tamil militants opened fire on them at a checkpost near Ramanathapuram late last night. The Tamil Nadu police chief says that the six heavily armed militants came in three vehicles and tried to cross the post. The militants opened fire on the policemen when they tried to stop them.

The state chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, has described the incidents as aimed at sabotaging the ongoing talks between various militant groups.